



*The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024, + 9am

Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484
Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

**The communion bread is homemade by congregation members and contains gluten and honey. For those with allergies or sensitivities, an alternative will be provided upon request. **

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal at the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, a hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or office@zionstratford.org or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or pastoramy@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor: Rev. Amy Heinz

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodian: Rod Huther

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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PRELUDE

CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Gather in Grace

LENTEN PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls,
for we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways,
for we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts,
for we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

O come, let us worship the Lord!**

HYMN

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

ELW 777

v1,2,3,6

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin,

we confess before you our own sinfulness;

we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;

we have compromised with evil;

we have doubted your power to protect us.

Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen.

The Lord God said, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are pardoned.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

May the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of Love,

**you taught us that love is your greatest commandment. Teach us
to love unconditionally as you love us. In Jesus' name we pray.**

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Psalm 89:1-4

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all
generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your
throne for all generations.' "

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’

³⁷ “David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

MUSIC MINISTRY

“My Soul Finds Rest”

Zion Choir

SERMON

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

ELW 666

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

O Jesus, you know the anguish of our human lives.

As one who sees the pain of those who suffer, bring comfort, peace, and strength, especially for all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who has experienced the agony and tears of losing loved ones, comfort all who grieve, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who understands the agony of those who have been deserted, stand alongside those who feel alone, lonely, and abandoned today, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As one who was once forsaken by all others, give hope and assurance to those who feel rejection, especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As one who knows the ravages of violence,
bring peace and healing to those who are tortured by enemies,
especially all whom we name now either aloud or silently in our
hearts. *[brief pause]*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You, our Lord, have offered up prayers with loud cries and tears;
hear us when we do the same.

We approach your throne of grace with boldness;
may we receive mercy and grace in our time of need.

Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Come to the Table of Mercy”

ELW 481

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Compassionate God,

we gratefully return to you these gifts of our time and labor.

Receive the offering of our whole lives and feed us with your

**grace, that in the midst of death all creation might feast on your
unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right for us to give you our thanks and praise, O Lord our God, sustainer of the universe.

At your command all things came to be. You brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us stewards of creation, but we turned against you and betrayed your trust.

Yet your mercy is like a spring that never fails. You yourself, in Christ your Son, came to deliver us; you redeem us in your love and pity; you create new heavens and a new earth where the cry of distress is heard no more.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory in this unending hymn:**

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p. 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 191

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

ELW 818

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Soli Deo Gloria"

ELW 878

DISMISSAL

We go in peace to love and serve our neighbors,
with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Holy Week

March 28, 2024, 5:30 pm

Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion

March 29, 2024, 5:30 pm

Good Friday Worship

March 31, 2024, 7:00 am & 9:00 am

Easter Sunday/Communion

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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