



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Tell Me a Story About Jesus

August 4, 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/MISSION MOMENT

We Gather in Grace

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen**

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

HYMN

“O Zion, Haste”

ELW 668

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW p. 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW p. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bringer of Wisdom,

You teach us all we need to know about loving you and loving one another. Make our prayers more than mere words, and inspire us to actions of mercy and compassion. In Jesus’ name, we pray.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

Today we continue an occasional preaching series called “Tell Me a Story.” Pastor Amy will invite someone (maybe you!) to tell a favorite story about Jesus, and the sermon will flow from that story. Scripture may be read as needed to support the story, but since these stories will be a surprise for Pastor Amy, the scripture readings will also be a surprise for us all.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Tell Me a Story About Jesus

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

ELW 574

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.

Loving God, we love the beautiful world you have made: the sun and clouds, the seas and mountains, plants and animals. *We pause now to name them.*

Help us take good care of your gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for the Bible: for stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and especially those about Jesus. *We pause now to name them.*

Give us courage to tell these stories to those who have not heard. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray today for all whom we love: parents, teachers, pastors, siblings, and friends. *We pause now to name them.*

Help us to listen well to one another and speak kindly with all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray today for people we do not know: people who live far away, people who cannot leave the hospital or nursing home, or even the person sitting next to us at school, work, or church. *We pause now to name them.*

Help us to show kindness and compassion to all who are hurting, lonely, or in despair. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Help us to grow in your love every day— as we pray and worship, as we learn from your word, as we share your love with others in all aspects of our lives. Open new avenues of possibilities. Renew our hope. Give us faith to move forward in your love. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”* **ELW 691 v1**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we praise you, Gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name, and we sing with joy:**

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 208

“I Come with Joy”

ELW 482

“Here Is Bread”

ELW 483

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

May the blessing of God, the giver of every good and perfect gift; and of Christ, who summons us to service; and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love, be with you always.

Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

"You Servants of God"

ELW 825

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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