

**Beloved, we are God's
children now**



***"...and God will wipe away every tear
from their eyes."***

Rev. 7:17b

**All Saints Sunday
November 3, 2024 + 9:00 a.m.**

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 on 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, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at 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

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS / CENTERING

THE GATHERING

INVOCATION

Trusting in the word of life given in Baptism and emerging as a new creation, raised with Christ in a resurrection like his, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

LBW #174

Names of family and friends of the congregation will be read during the singing of this hymn. After a name is read, those who presented the name may come forward to light a candle. You may also light a candle for loved ones, even if you have not submitted their names.

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Living God, in whom there is no shadow or change,
we thank you for the gift of life eternal,
and for all those who, having served you well,
now rest from their labors.

**We thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten,
for those dear souls most precious to us.**

**We bless you for their life and love,
and rejoice for them that “all is well,
and all manner of things will be well.”**

God of all creation,
mindful of all those choice souls who have gone on ahead of us,
teach us, and each twenty-first century disciple of every race and
place, to follow their example to the best of our ability:

- to feed the poor in body or spirit,
- to support and comfort the mourners and the repentant,
- to encourage the meek and stand with them in crises,
- to affirm those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- to cherish and learn from the merciful,
- to be humbled by, and stand with, the peacemakers.

**Let us clearly recognize what it means
to be called the children of God,
and to know we are to be your saints
neither by our own inclination nor in our own strength
but simply by the call and the healing holiness
of Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession.

Faithful Lord,

**In the busyness of our daily lives,
we forget to remember your goodness.**

We forget to give thanks for your many blessings.

**We fail to greet one another with words and expressions
of peace, love, and thanks.**

**We forget to remember the ones who have passed before us,
recalling and retelling the stories of their lives.**

**Forgive us and help us to remember the saints
and receive the gifts of their goodness, and
help us to be thankful for the living saints around us.**

**Be with us as we take time to rejoice
with believers everywhere in the world and through all of time.
Amen.**

God grants forgiveness of sins, strength in weakness,
comfort in grief, and the promise of eternal salvation.
Because of the love of our gracious Lord,
in the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

READING

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their
shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

READING

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW 174

GOSPEL

John 11:32-44

The Holy Gospel according to John the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

That is What We Are

Pastor Amy Heinz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“By All Your Saints”

ELW 421

v1,2,last

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

Almighty God, in the presence of your bounty keep us humble, and in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring.

A brief silence.

We pray for all unhappy lives, those who are bitter and resentful, those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense, those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others.

May your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for those who are lonely, who are shy and self-conscious, who find it hard to make friends, who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand.

May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for those who live with bitter regrets, for loving relationships brought to ruin, for opportunities freely given and woefully abused, for the bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand, or for failure in personal integrity.

May your grace give new hope to find victory at the very scene of failure.

Hear our fervent prayer.

We pray for all in illness and pain, weary of the day and fearful of the night. Grant strength to those who suffer and to those who provide care. We pause now to speak their names either aloud or silently in our hearts.

A brief silence.

May your touch, embodied in our care, bring healing and wholeness.

Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless the company of Christ's body, the church in every land. Make her eager in worship, fearless in the proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring.

May your Holy Spirit pour out on all people a living faith in you.

Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless our country with compassion for others. Bless our leaders with wisdom and patience. Bless our children with passion for service.

May your loving example bring an end to unhappy divisions and inspire us to live for others.

Hear our fervent prayer.

Bless each of us in the communion of the saints, and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and who will come after us. Make our imperfect faith perfect so that we may, at the last, receive the fulfillment promised to your people.

We pray in the great name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We Share the Meal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ever-present God,
with this offering we present also ourselves:
all that we have been,
all that we are,
all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.

Accept us and our offering, and nourish us at your table for service in Jesus' name.

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, we bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and calling us to be your people. We thank you that you have not abandoned us in our rebellion against your love, but sent prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all, we thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, to deliver us from the way of sin and death by the obedience of his life, by his suffering upon the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and out of every people unites us into one holy church.

Therefore with the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth we worship and glorify you, God most holy, and we sing with joy:**

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 191

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 146

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

v1,2,4

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

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