



**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 16, 2025 + 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 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, a hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or [pastoramy@zionstratford.org](mailto: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.**

**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. 147

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW p. 148

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of mystery,**

**We long to know who you are. Show us that you are God: mysterious, wonderful, and mighty. Show us that you are with us: teaching, healing, and making whole. We pray in the name of the one who embodies all mystery, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**We Hear the Word of God**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**READING**

**Psalm 146:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
9 The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
10 The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!

## READING

## Luke 7:18-35

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples 19 and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?" 20 When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?'" 21 Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits and had given sight to many who were blind. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight; the lame walk; those with a skin disease are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor have good news brought to them. 23 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

24 When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces.

<sup>26</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup> “I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup> (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, having been baptized with John’s baptism. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the experts in the law, not having been baptized by him, rejected God’s purpose for themselves.)

<sup>31</sup> “To what, then, will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not weep.’

<sup>33</sup> “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>34</sup> the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ <sup>35</sup> Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**What Did You Expect?**

Rev. Amy Heinz

**HYMN**

*“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

**ELW 515**

## **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.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC    *Let Your Mercy Flow*    Zion Praise Choir**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

*A brief silence.*

O Triune God, grant us your gracious, guiding presence as we enter the new year. As we join Christians of every time who have awaited Jesus' return, lead us into this new time, confident that your promises will be fulfilled. Hear us, O God:

**Your mercy is great.**

Spirit of Truth, call us to repentance in this new year. Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice and inaction amid suffering. Move us from the desire to hoard our wealth toward faithful stewardship. Help us to share your gifts with those who cry out for daily bread. Hear us, O God:

**Your mercy is great.**

Prince of Peace, healer and reconciler, heal the divisions in your Church and among the peoples of the world. As you prayed that we should all be one, give us new visions to enable that unity. Be with us on our ecumenical journey, and with those sisters and brothers who surround us in the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God:

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your Church forward from an empty cross and tomb through millenia. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant us faith to move ahead. Be our companion until Jesus comes again. In his 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: ourselves, 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.**

Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy. You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you. You sent your Spirit to make us one body in Christ.

For these gifts of your love we thank you, and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise:\*\*

**SANCTUS**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

**ELW p. 153**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

*“Lamb of God”*

**ELW p. 154**

*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

**ELW 742**

*“There Is a Balm in Gilead”*

**ELW 614**

## **BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **We Serve the World in God's Name**

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.\*\***

#### **CLOSING SONG**

*"Oh, Sing to the Lord"*

**ELW 822 v1,2,5**

#### **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

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

***Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands***

213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>