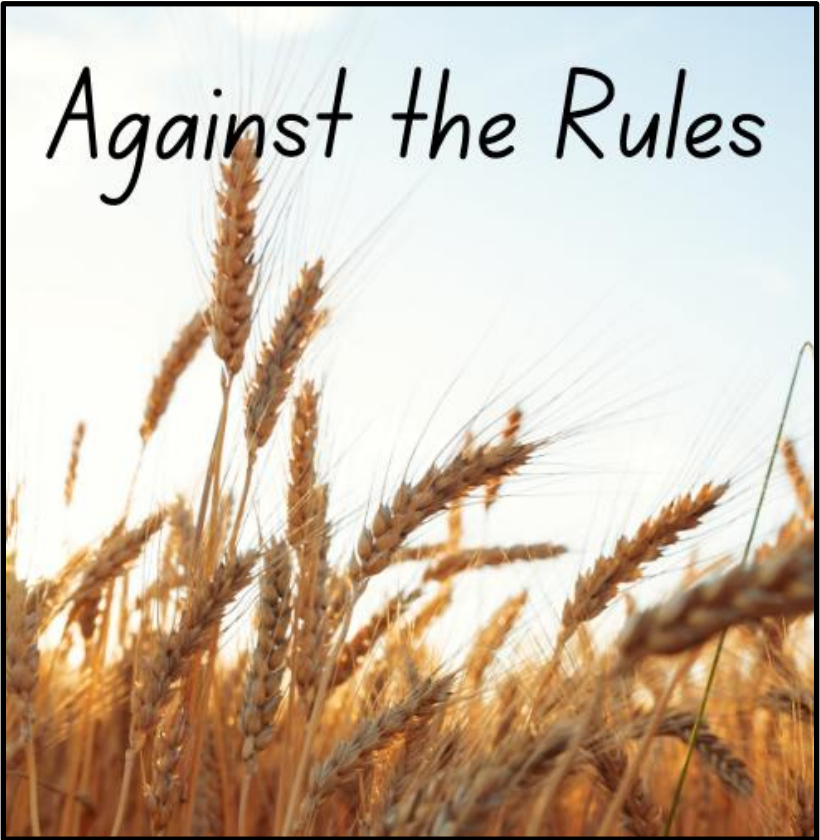


# *Against the Rules*



**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 2, 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 at 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**

**Lord of the Sabbath,**

**Your followers boldly plucked grain on the Sabbath to show you are Lord of all. Show us how to rest boldly, rejecting all that goes against your will, and instead praying and resting as you did on the mountain, for the glory of your word and work. In your name we pray.**

**Amen.**

**We Hear the Word of God**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****READING****Psalm 92**

- <sup>1</sup> It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,  
<sup>2</sup> to declare your steadfast love in the morning  
and your faithfulness by night,  
<sup>3</sup> to the music of the lute and the harp to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

<sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O LORD!  
Your thoughts are very deep!

<sup>6</sup> The dullard cannot know;  
the stupid cannot understand this:

<sup>7</sup> though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they are doomed to destruction forever,

<sup>8</sup> but you, O LORD, are on high forever.

<sup>9</sup> For your enemies, O LORD,  
for your enemies shall perish;  
all evildoers shall be scattered.

<sup>10</sup> But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;  
you have anointed me with fresh oil.

<sup>11</sup> My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;  
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup> In old age they still produce fruit;  
they are always green and full of sap,

<sup>15</sup> showing that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

## READING

## Luke 6:1-16

One Sabbath while Jesus was going through some grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup> But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”

<sup>4</sup> How he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" <sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. <sup>7</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees were watching him to see whether he would cure on the Sabbath, so that they might find grounds to bring an accusation against him. <sup>8</sup> But he knew what they were thinking, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand in the middle." He got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" <sup>10</sup> After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup> But they were filled with fury and began discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: <sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup> and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**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 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**

*“We Come to the Hungry Feast”*

**ELW 479**

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

**ELW 484**

## 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**

*"The Church of Christ, in Ev'ry Age"*

**ELW 729 v1,3,5**

### **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***

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