

**In your light**



**we see light**

**Transfiguration Sunday**  
*Special Guest the Rev. Gail Sowell*

**March 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 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**

**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**

**Dazzling Lord,**

**Reveal yourself to us today. Show us what you desire of us and how to broadcast your love to the world, for the sake of the one who keeps company with the prophets, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**We Hear the Word of God**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE****READING****Psalm 36:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup> How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

<sup>10</sup> O continue your steadfast love to those who know you  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

## READING

## Luke 9:28-45

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

<sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup>

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>

They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as

they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. <sup>34</sup>

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from

the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found

alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child.

<sup>39</sup> Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup> I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” <sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup> While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup> And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup> “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.” <sup>45</sup> But they did not understand this saying; its meaning remained concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Gail Sowell

**HYMN**

*“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!”*

**ELW 315**

**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: 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.**

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**

*“Beautiful Savior”*

**ELW 838**

*“Thine the Amen”*

**ELW 826**

## **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**     *“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”*     **ELW 318 v1-3**

*As we sing this hymn, our young people will be taking the “alleluia banner” out of the sanctuary. This symbolizes our commitment to self-reflection and self-examination during the season of Lent which begins on Wednesday, March 5. From now until Easter Sunday, we will sing no alleluias and no hymn of praise in order to mark the serious nature of our Lenten discipline.*

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

***Many thanks to Pastor Gail for joining us  
on February 23 and March 2!***

# Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

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

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