**WELCOME**

**Good morning, and welcome to Zion Lutheran! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today on such a joyous occasion! We are very excited to celebrate with our confirmands this morning as they affirm their baptisms in front of God and all of us here today. Our confirmands are helping to lead worship today, so we hope this service will be a celebration and a blessing to them.**

**Hopefully you received a confirmation booklet from the ushers on your way in; the bulletin is the half-sheet found inside and will be the order for worship today. This service is also being livestreamed and will be posted on our Facebook page if you have any family or friends who were unable to be here with us today.**

**We just wanted to remind all families that we are holding a Trunk or Treat today from 4-6 PM in the north parking lot, and a freewill offering meal from 5-6 PM with hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert being served.**

**Let’s begin worship this morning with the Thanksgiving for Baptism. Please stand.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness,

grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**We continue with our Processional Song: Holy, Holy, Holy.**

**PROCESSIONAL SONG *Holy, Holy, Holy***

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none before Thee,

Perfect in pow’r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

**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 ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and give to your Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

**FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Say: Our first reading comes from first Timothy, chapter 4, verses 11 through 16.

11These are the things you must insist on and teach. 12Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. 14Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. 15Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. 16Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

The holy gospel, according to John, the third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL John 3: 1-17**

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

4Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon Pastor Jim Holthus**

**SONG OF THE DAY *God So Loved***

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave

His only Son

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave

His only Son

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

He's risen from the dead. He is risen.

He's high and lifted up. Heaven and earth adore.

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so loved the world that He gave

His only Son.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

He's risen from the dead. He is risen.

He's high and lifted up. Heaven and earth adore.

He's risen from the dead. He is risen.

He's high and lifted up. Heaven and earth adore.

God so loved the world that He gave.

God so love the world that He gave

His only Son.

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM***

*Jena German, Council President presents the candidates to the ministers:*

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism. Please come forward as your name is called and face the congregation.

*Jack Dickey, Kaylee Efraimson, Aubrey Jensen, Raegan Kempf,*

*Zoe Kempf, Kaelyn Schutter, Brandon Schwan,*

*Kyra Spitzer, Brendyn Weisser*

We rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Please turn and face the altar.

*The minister addresses those who have been presented.*

**PJ** Brothers and Sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? If so answer, I do.

**R** **I do.** (all together)

**PJ** Do you believe in God the Father?

*Confirmands say the following together (with the congregation):*

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**PJ** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**PJ** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** **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**

***Would the congregation please stand.***

**The Prayers**

**PJ** Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere: That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**PJ** That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**PJ** That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**PJ** That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love:

Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**PJ** That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory:

Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**PJ** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,   
 trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**Congregation may be seated.**

**PJ** You have now made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: in other words, do you intend:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear his Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? If so answer each one, I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

*Each person answers in turn.*

**R** **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

**PJ** Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

*Present prayer shawls—Kathy Brumbaugh will present shawls and lay them on each confirmand’s shoulders. Saundra will read the names.*

**PJ** I invite parents, sponsors and mentors of each student to come forward and   
 stand behind your confirmand and you may lay hands on their shoulders. We   
 will bless the confirmands in alphabetical order.

*Jack will come to center and sit in the folding chair, facing the congregation; others sit in front of pew until their name is called.*

*Pastor will lay hands on each student.*

**Jack / Kaylee / Aubrey / Raegan / Zoe / Kaelyn / Brandon / Kyra / Brendyn**

**PJ** God in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to everlasting life.

*Each person answers:*

**R** **Amen**

*Parents, sponsors and mentors may be seated.*

*When everyone is finished, Brendyn stays up front and everyone else goes and joins him. Students stand.*

**PJ** Now may God who has begun a good work within you perfect it until the day   
 of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Students return to front pews.*

**RECESSIONAL SONG *Awesome God***

Our God is an awesome God,

He reigns from heaven above.

With wisdom, strength and love,

Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God,

He reigns from heaven above.

With wisdom, strength and love,

Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Please stand and take a moment to greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.**

[PAUSE WHILE CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS SHARE GREETINGS OF PEACE WITH OTHERS]

**You may be seated.**

**Offering**

In the joy and peace we are given through the cross of Jesus Christ, please consider your gifts to Zion that will strengthen our ministry and mission together for the sake of all in need of hearing of Christ’s love and grace for them. You can give online, in the mail, or in person here today. Offering plates will not be passed this morning, but there is a basket at the back of the sanctuary that you may place any offerings in as you leave today. Thank you for your gracious gifts to Zion and for your partnership in the gospel of Christ.

**We continue with our Offering Prayer. Please stand.**

**OFFERING PRAYER** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Let us pray.

We bring you these gifts, O God,

from what we have first received from you.

Use them, we pray, to enable the ministries of this church

to flourish as we together serve our neighbors,

both near and far away, by showing love

and doing mercy in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**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.**

Each of us is broken by sin and less than God has created us to be, but this does not disqualify us from being touched by God and serving God in any capacity, large or small, broken as we are.

**God uses broken things. It takes broken clouds to give rain, broken ground to give grain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.**

**words of institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

We pray in confidence the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

**Please be seated.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION SONGS  *Amazing Grace***

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

**Please stand.**

**POST-COMMUNION blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven, the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, keep us steadfast in the promise and life-giving hope of your resurrection, that by the Holy Spirit we might testify to the power and grace of your work for us and all people. **Amen**.

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Please join together in our Sending Song: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High.**

**SENDING SONG *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High***

Lord, I lift your name on high,

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I’m so glad you’re in my life,

I’m so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I lift your name on high,

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I’m so glad you’re in my life,

I’m so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I lift your name on high.

**SENDING WORDS** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**