

# *13th Sunday After Epiphany*

*September 4, 2022*

*9:45am Online Service*



1812 North Highland Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

Welcome! Some practical things for you to know:

**Children:** All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

**Restrooms** are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

**Holy Communion:** All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

## PRELUDE

### THE BAPTISM OF ZOEY AERITH STRADLING

Pastor: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*A sponsor or sponsors present the candidate:*

I present Zoey Aerith Stradling for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses the parent and/or guardians:*

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

Pastor: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the sponsor or sponsors:*

Pastor: Sponsor(s), do you promise to nurture this person in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Zoey and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

*The presiding minister addresses the parent(s) and sponsor(s). The assembly may join in the responses.*

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

**Response: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Response: 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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Response: 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.**

*At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Response: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Response: Amen.**

*The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.*

Pastor: Zoey Aerith Stradling, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response: Amen.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Zoey Aerith with the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

**Response: Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Pastor: Zoey Aerith, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Response: Amen.**

*A lighted candle is given to the sponsor(s) as a representative of the congregation says:*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Pastor: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**Response: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Borning Cry*

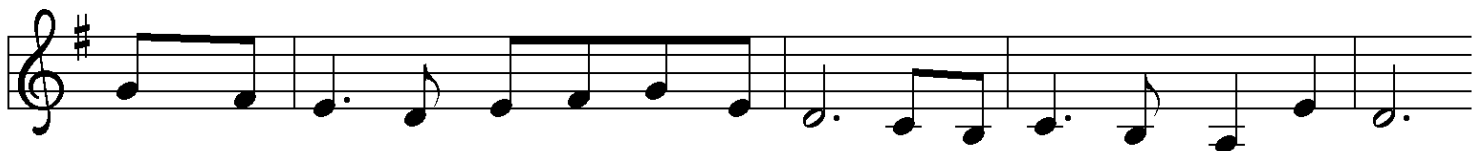
ELW 732



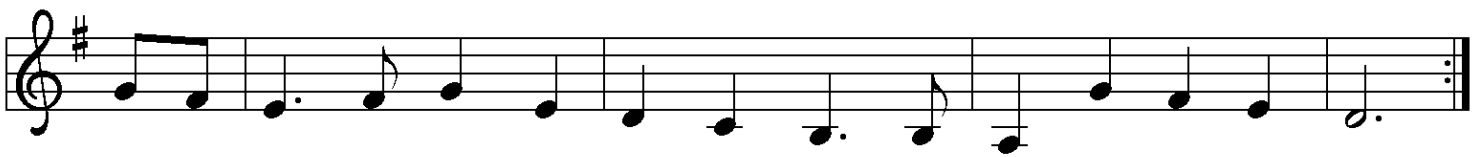
- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



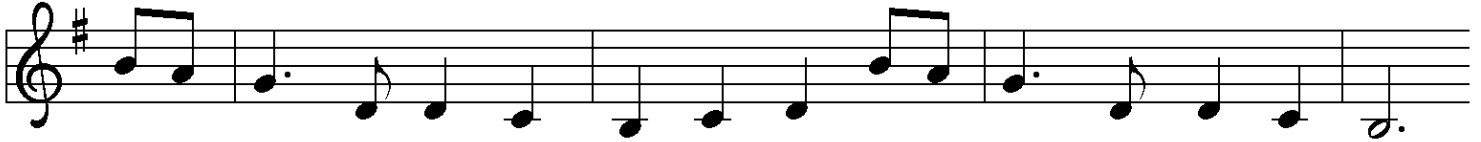
I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell.”  
I’ll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.”  
I’ll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise.”



4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.”

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker  
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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

Reader: <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding

fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

### Philemon 1-21

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother and to free him from his slavery. When this letter was delivered to Philemon in the presence of the whole congregation, it may have even been Onesimus (whose name means “useful”) who read the letter to him.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The reading is concluded:

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 14th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Worship Leader: <sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

*After the reading...*

The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We Sit*

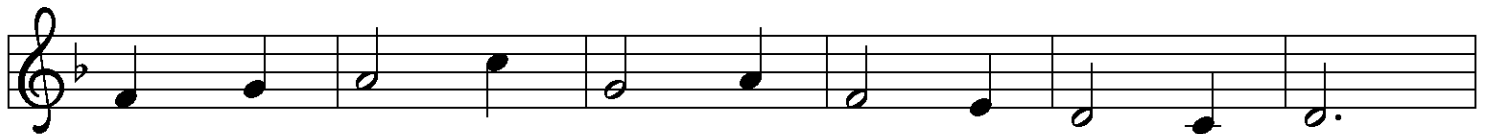
**SERMON**

*We Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons*

**ELW 798**



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?  
 pray'r in you and you in me?  
 mean in you and you in me?  
 sound in you and you in me?  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. Lord, in your mercy,



**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. We pray especially for those on the prayer list of our congregation, those suffering from violence and terror such as the people of Ukraine, Uvalde, Highland Park, and Bend, those suffering from natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, drought, and diseases such as COVID-19, monkeypox, and polio, and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Prayer Leader: We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors, especially Duke Tieman, Carolyn DuMoulin, and all those resting in our Memorial Garden, and Peter Claver, priest and missionary. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Worship Leader: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Lift High the Cross*

*ELW 660 vs. 1-3*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## **DISMISSAL**

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God’s Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week’s service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**