



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Ministers

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Pastor

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Visitation Minister

Paul Shilton

Minister of Music

Laura Burton

Organist

Sandra Mogensen

Pianist

LENT 1

February 21, 2021

As we, once again, are not able to meet for “in person” worship today, this a different form of the bulletin to keep you in touch. Here is your bulletin for today, the First Sunday in Lent.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
The keeper of the covenant,
The source of steadfast love,
Our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Christ Jesus.
Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus,
As healers and restorers of the world you so love. **Amen.**

Beloved, God’s Word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
By the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
Your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day:

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

Psalm 25:1-10

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

1Peter3:18-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Mark 1:9-15

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hzyxo7ncP4Marl6W>

Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff’s sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading “Sermons”)

ANTHEM: “O Lord, throughout these 40 days”

Performed by: Sandra Mogensen

(Click on the link below for the musical version)

<https://youtu.be/1CaRT9asEpc>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth’s creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer (*especially Muriel, Klaus, Jack, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Glenn, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness (*especially Peter and Pearl*). Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ****

“LIMITED”

“IN-PERSON” WORSHIP

IS SCHEDULED TO

RECOMMENCE

ON

SUNDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2021

at 10:00 A.M.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

Nominations are now open for Congregational Church Council. Please submit your nomination to Kevin Tuer by email at kevintuer@gmail.com or by phone at 519-273-6205.

Nominations may also be submitted to any other Church Council Member.

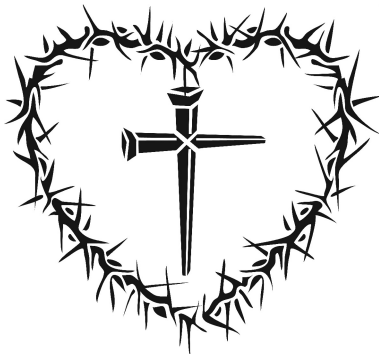
ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2021 Annual Meeting with “limited” attendance is scheduled for **SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH**.

Further details will be published in the weekly bulletin and on our website at www.zionstratford.com closer to the re-opening.

ETERNITY FOR TODAY

We have a few copies of “Eternity For Today” available. Anyone interested in checking out this publication, which emphasizes “Living our Faith” through daily prayer and scripture readings, is asked to call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 to make arrangements to have one delivered to you.



ALL EVENTS REMAIN

CANCELLED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

A Litany for Lent



We fast from judging others,
but feast on patience.

We fast from apparent differences,
but feast on unity of all life.

We fast from words that pollute,
but feast on words that affirm.

We fast from complaining,
but feast on appreciation.

We fast from bitterness and anger,
but feast on forgiveness and mercy.

We fast from discouragement,
but feast on hope.

We fast from suspicion,
but feast on trust.

We fast from idle gossip,
but feast on purposeful silence.

We fast from problems that overwhelm,
but feast on prayer that strengthens.