



THIRD 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 3

March 7, 2021

Here is your bulletin for today, the Third Sunday in Lent.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “DEEP WITHIN”

PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON ON ORGAN
& PAUL SHILTON ON TRUMPET

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:

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING:

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow

down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**

sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses?**

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight O
LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

Psalm 19

SECOND READING:

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iACXHXEsV0Z1ge6F>

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: “IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY” PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering (especially Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Jack, John, Katana, Beryl, Ralph, Rose Marie, Muriel, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby). Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

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.**

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

HYMNTUNE: HAMBURG

ARRANGED BY HAL HOPSON

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The following information regarding the *Annual Meeting* was also published in the March Newsletter:

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

The annual congregation meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet on ***Sunday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. service.*** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be several ways to participate in this year’s meeting:

- ▶ Limited in-person seating, to a maximum of 50, will be available in the sanctuary; ***those attending the congregation meeting need to reserve a seat by calling the church office before 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 12.*** A separate phone call is not necessary for those members attending worship that morning as long as you inform Jane whether or not you will remain for the congregation meeting.
- ▶ The meeting will be available on Zoom for those who do not wish to attend in person. Voting on motions will be available via Zoom. The link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

- ▶ For members receiving their Newsletters via email - the Annual Reports, which include the Committee Reports, Financial Statements, etc., will be sent to you via email. For those members who do not receive their Newsletters via email - copies of the reports can be picked up at the church office weekday mornings or, Jane can be contacted at the church office and, a request can be made to receive a hard copy of the reports. She will arrange to have the reports delivered to your home.
- ▶ Absentee ballots will be available for those members who do not attend either in-person or via Zoom. To receive absentee ballots, please contact Jane at the church office to request a ballot(s). The ballots can be picked up at the church office weekday mornings or she will make arrangements to have them delivered to your home. The absentee ballots will list the motions that will be made at the meeting. The motions will contain the names of the members making the motions as well as the names of the members seconding the motions. If anyone has any questions regarding a motion, please do not hesitate to contact the members making or seconding the respective motion. Once the ballot is completed, place the ballot in the envelope provided and seal the envelope. The envelope can be dropped off either (a) at the church office weekday mornings; (b) dropped off in the locked mailbox; or (c) mailed to the church. It is recommended that members choose either (a) or (b). The ballots must be received in the church office **no later than 12 noon on Friday, March 12.**
- ▶ If anyone has any questions in regard to these procedures, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Jeff or a Council member.

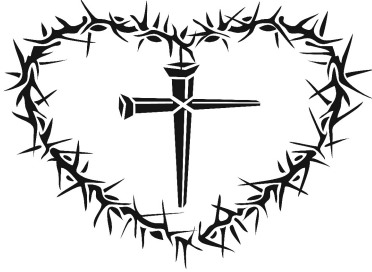
ETERNITY FOR TODAY

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.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

**ADULTS 80 & OLDER and INDIGENOUS ADULTS 55 & OLDER
CAN BOOK A COVID-19 VACCINE**

On the last page of this bulletin we have attached a “News Release” from the Huron Perth Public Health which gives the details on how you can book your COVID-19 vaccination if you qualify at this time.



*ALL EVENTS REMAIN
CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and few self-centered needs, stronger compassion and weakened judgement of others.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

*In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen*

