

FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

website: www.zionstratford.com

Cell: 519-274-1300

email: zionlc@golden.net

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 5

March 21, 2021

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

CONFESSON 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 Jesus Christ.
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 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.

GATHERING SONG: "PANIS ANGELICUS"

BY: CESAR FRANCK

PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON, ORGAN

PAUL SHILTON, 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:

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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 Jeremiah

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

Psalm 51:1-12

SECOND READING:

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:5-10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SUSAN LAUSTSEN

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of

this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

John 12:20-33

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

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5YZa1iDOD3J4Skx5Jgkw0>

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: “JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE

BY: J.G. WALTHER
PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON, ORGAN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for Hans, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Jack, John, Dianne, Maria, Katana, Beryl, Ralph, Robb, Rose Marie, Muriel, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. 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.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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 Saviour 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: "NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES"

PERFORMED BY: PAUL SHILTON

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Our return to in-person worship gives us the opportunity to gather for worship on this most central week of the church year, in which we are invited to follow our Lord as he triumphantly enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, shares his Last Supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, suffers and dies on the Cross on Good Friday, and rises from the dead on Easter Sunday so that we might rejoice that “*if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his*” (Romans 6:5). Our in-person gatherings on each of these holy days will be accompanied by recorded services that will be posted on our congregation’s website: www.zionstratford.com.

- **Palm Sunday Worship** on Sunday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. Our service will include the blessing of palms and the reading of the Passion According to St. Mark.
- **Maundy Thursday Worship** on Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. This service of Holy Communion on the night in which Jesus instituted this holy sacrament will include the stripping of the altar in anticipation of Christ’s death on Good Friday.
- **Good Friday Worship** on Friday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. This service on the most solemn day of the year will include the reading of the Passion According to St. John and the Bidding Prayers.
- **Easter Sunday Worship** on Sunday April 4 at 10:00 a.m. will be our celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in which we rejoice in the good news that “*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*”

Please call the church office to reserve a place for each of these worship services as we continue to observe COVID-19 safety guidelines in all our worship gatherings.

HOUSE OF BLESSING

The House of Blessing's "*Spring Food Drive*" is underway. We have attached an article which outlines what items are in high demand. Also mentioned are two (2) locations of Food Drives where donations may be dropped off; or, you can drop off donations in store bins or at the House of Blessing.

Thank you for your help with this much needed cause.

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.

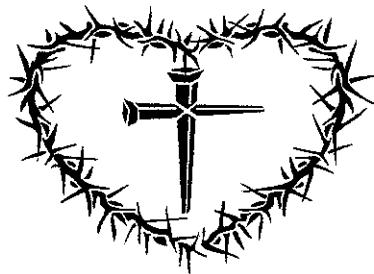
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

**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.

NEW ARRIVAL

The SALT refugee family is having a baby in May. The committee is seeking donations of gently used baby clothes and accessories. If you have something you would like to donate, please call Jan Bennewitz at 519-271-6073 for porch pick up or porch drop off. Thank you!



ALL EVENTS REMAIN

CANCELLED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*Prayer for the
Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Father of mercy,
bring us face to face
with our own weakness
when we are tempted
to judge others.

May we find peace and life
in simply stepping back
and allowing you

to be the merciful Judge of us all.

Amen.

Prayer from www.cccb.ca

www.archtoronto.org

Spring Food Drive

The need for food continues to rise.
Please help our community!



March 18th
to
April 4th

Most Needed:

Cereal
School Snacks
Canned Meats
Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter
Fruit & Veggies
Pork & Beans
Cookies
Crackers
Juice

**Sat. March 20th
10:00 - 3:00
Food Basics**

**Sat. March 27th
10:00 - 3:00
No Frills
Zehrs**

Or drop your donations
in the store bins or at
House of Blessing

Donate what you would put
on the table for your family!



Thanks for partnering with us.



Adults 80 and Older and Indigenous Adults 55 and Older Can Book a COVID-19 Vaccine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Huron-Perth, ON –Huron Perth Public Health is opening up COVID-19 vaccine appointments to adults aged 80 and older, and Indigenous adults aged 55 and older. An appointment can be booked online at <http://www.hpph.ca/vaccine> or by calling 1-833-753-2098. If you have an OHIP card, please have it ready.

The Health Unit asks people to book their appointment online if they are able, or have a caregiver who can help them book online, since phone lines are very busy.

If you call, please listen to the recording and wait to be connected to a scheduler. The phone line will be open today as of 2:30 p.m. and from then on will be staffed 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The line will also be staffed Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7. There will be an option to leave a message so that a scheduler can return your call.

Appointments are for clinics over the next few weeks in several locations across Huron-Perth, including Goderich and Stratford as well as rotating across municipalities in Huron and Perth. This is in keeping with the Huron-Perth model of bringing vaccines to people as much as possible.

As we receive more vaccine supply, additional appointments will be available.

Please note that caregivers and spouses who are under 80 years of age are not eligible for the vaccine at this time. Only those who are part of an eligible group are able to book an appointment for their vaccine.

Eligible groups for first-dose vaccination

- Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, retirement homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
- "Highest Priority" health care workers, followed by some "Very High Priority" health care workers.
- Residents and staff in other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities.
- Adults over the age of 80 (born in 1941 or earlier)
- Indigenous adults aged 55 and older (born in 1966 or earlier)

Eligible health care workers are being contacted directly and will receive booking directions from their employer.

Continued .../2

News Release

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We know that many people are eager to be vaccinated and we ask for everyone's patience. Remember that once HPPH announces that you are eligible for the vaccine, you are always eligible; you will not miss your chance to be vaccinated as there will be more opportunities.

For information, visit:

- www.hpph.ca/vaccine
- www.ontario.ca/coronavirus
- Follow us at www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth and www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth
- Call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133

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- **Media Contact:** communications@hpph.ca