



**"THESE ARE WRITTEN
so... that by
BELIEVING
you may have
LIFE
IN HIS NAME."**
JOHN 20:31, ESV

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

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EASTER 2

April 11, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

Walk in the light of his love.

Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.

Come, let us worship the One who overcomes death.

Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.

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, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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 Acts.

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts: 4:32-35

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Psalm 133

SECOND READING:

A reading from the First Letter of John.

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:1–2:2

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:19-31

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

SERMON: https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iGkSdxJHzR_PrTcs

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid (especially Ardath, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Dianne, Maria, Beryl, Robb, John, Jack, Ralph, Dale, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Karen, Brian, and Kolby). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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.

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 favor and ? give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP CANCELLATION NOTICE

ON APRIL 7, 2021

**THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, DOUG FORD, ANNOUNCED A
PROVINCE-WIDE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND
STAY-AT-HOME ORDER BEGINNING AT 12:01 A.M. ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021.**

RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR 28 DAYS.

**IT IS BISHOP MICHAEL'S STRONG COUNSEL THAT EASTERN
SYNOD CONGREGATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
CEASE ALL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS UNTIL EMERGENCY
AND STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**

AS A RESULT,

**WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT
ALL “IN-PERSON” GATHERINGS,
INCLUDING WORSHIP, ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL THE EMERGENCY AND STAY-AT-HOME
ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**

**PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT
www.zionstratford.com**

FOR UPDATES !!

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS - UPDATE

***ADULTS 65+, INDIGENOUS 16+ AND FAITH LEADERS
CAN NOW BOOK A COVID-19 VACCINE
AS OF APRIL 8, 2021***

It has been announced by the Huron Perth Public Health that **Adults 65+, Indigenous persons 16+ and Faith Leaders can now book their COVID-19 vaccine.**

The following has been provided by the Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH).

If you qualify at this time, 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 staffed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 65 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.

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.



As we face yet another Province-wide shut down and a stay-at-home order in place, I thought I would include another prayer relating to COVID-19.

A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

