



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

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Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

EASTER 3

April 18, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
Who calls us beloved children,
Who gathers us into one flock,
Who guides us into all truth.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Faithful and just God,
We confess that we are captive to doubt and fear.
We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have loved us.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new,
That we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

In this is love, not that we loved God,
But that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
I announce to you that all your sins are forgiven.
Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy,
And inspire you to live for others.

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.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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 Acts.

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Acts 3:12-19

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.
²**“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**
³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.
⁴**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.**
⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.
⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.**
⁷You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.
⁸**In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.**

Psalms 4

SECOND READING:

A reading from the First Letter of John.

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

1 John 3:1-7

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:36b-48

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iHb5X5gQRHr7p1TQ>

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.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness (*especially Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Diane, Maria, Beryl, Robb, John, Jack, Ralph, Dale, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Karen, Brian, and Kolby*). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. 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.

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.

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 favour and + give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
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 !!



In Loving Memory
of
Kevin Graul
+April 17, 2018

Always remembered by his Mother, Doreen Graul

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS - UPDATE

This is the latest information found on the Perth District Health Unit's website:

“As of Friday, April 16, 2021: Appointments for vaccinations are currently unavailable to book online. Please check back at a later date for future clinics.

You can also call to hear our regularly updated vaccination status message. Call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133 and press 1 (one) for COVID Vaccine. Please listen to the whole message to receive all of the information.”



As we enter another week under the lock down and “stay-at-home” order, I have come across another prayer which I would like to share with you.

Prayer During This Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced,
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,
Remember the most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or
making their rent.

May we who have flexibility to care for our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic
market,
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose LOVE.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to all our neighbors.

Amen