



He has risen!
He is not here.
See the place
where they laid him.

Mark 16:6

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

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth!
Sing about the glory of his name!
Tell the world how glorious he is.
Say to God, “How awesome are your works!”

Everything on earth will worship you;
They will sing your praises,
Shouting your name in glorious songs.

Come and see what our God has done,
What awesome miracles he does for his people!

GATHERING SONG: “LET US REJOICE”

PERFORMED BY:

PASTOR JEFF & SUSAN, VOCALS
PAUL SHILTON, PIANO

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, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Acts: 10:34-43

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let Israel | now declare,**

“God’s mercy endures forever.”

¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:

“The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD| is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!”

**¹⁷I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

**¹⁹Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

**²¹I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

**²³By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The core of the Christian faith and Paul’s preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of

all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16:1-8

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5Yza1iF2ITF3TwkKHsxXy>

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: "JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN TODAY"

BY: J. WALSH
PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON, ORGAN

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.

Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering (especially Ardath, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Jack, John, Dianne, Maria, Katana, Dale, Beryl, Ralph, Robb, Rose Marie, Muriel, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby). Assure them of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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 favor and ? give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "O SONS AND DAUGHTERS"

PERFORMED BY: PASTOR JEFF, SUSAN
& JILL WRIGHT, VOCALS
PAUL SHILTON, PIANO

DISMISSAL

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED

EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 5TH

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS - UPDATE

***ADULTS 70+, INDIGENOUS 16+ AND FAITH LEADERS
CAN NOW BOOK A COVID-19 VACCINE
AS OF MARCH 26, 2021***

It has been announced by the Huron Perth Public Health that **Adults 70+, 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 70 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.

All Events Remain Cancelled

*Until Further
Notice*



An Easter Prayer

Christ the Lord is risen
And, as all the world rejoices,
Singing of His glory
With such joyful hearts and voices,
May you find that Easter brings you
Peace and faith and hope anew,
And may these blessings fill your heart
With joy the whole year through.

Happy Easter

© AGCm, Inc.