

SANCTIFY
THEM
IN THE
TRUTH; **YOUR
WORD
IS TRUTH.**

JOHN 17:17

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

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

EASTER 7

May 16, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

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.

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: *Acts 1:15-17, 21-26*

A reading from the Book of Acts.

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalm 1*

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do
not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: *1 John 5:9-13*

A reading from the First Letter of John.

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: *John 17:6-19*

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

[Jesus prayed:] “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

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

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iVDH1E81zd3s7mMt>

(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.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous Saviour, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (*especially Bea, Elsie, Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Maria, Beryl, Robb, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Karen, Brian, and Kolby*). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints (*especially Martin*). 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.

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.



**ALL EVENTS
REMAIN CANCELLED**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP CANCELLATION NOTICE

ON MAY 13, 2021
THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, DOUG FORD, ANNOUNCED AN
**EXTENSION TO THE PROVINCE-WIDE DECLARATION OF
EMERGENCY AND
STAY-AT-HOME ORDER WHICH BEGAN AT 12:01 A.M. ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021.**

RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL JUNE 2, 2021.

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

Huron-Perth, ON – In alignment with provincial direction, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility. As of Thursday, May 13, 2021 the following are eligible to receive their vaccine:

Individuals age 40 and older (born 1981 or earlier)

Eligible as of May 10, 2021:

- Adults 16 and older with the following At-risk health conditions:

Immune deficiencies and autoimmune disorders
Stroke and cerebrovascular disease
Dementia
Diabetes
Liver disease
All other cancers
Respiratory diseases, such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy
Spleen problems, such as asplenia
Heart disease
Hypertension with end organ damage
Diagnosed mental disorder
Substance use disorders
Sickle cell disease
Thalassemia
Immunocompromising health conditions
Other disabilities requiring direct support care in the community

- Adults 16 and older who work in an essential workplace who cannot work from home or remotely, including Group Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan (please note: this list is not exhaustive):

- Individuals working in childcare: Unlicensed childcare settings
- Essential and critical retail workers (including grocery, food bank, pharmacy, Service Ontario, Service Canada, Passport Canada, wholesalers and general goods, restaurant, LCBO workers)
- Workers in manufacturing industries directly involved in supporting the COVID-19 response, construction (including infrastructure) and other essential businesses and services where facilities are at heightened risk for COVID-19 outbreaks and spread
- Social workers and social services staff who provide in-person client services (including youth justice workers, Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program case workers)
- Courts and justice system workers (including probation and parole workers)
- Transportation, warehousing and distribution workers (including public transit workers, truck drivers supporting essential services, marine and rail cargo and maintenance, highway maintenance)
- Electricity (including system operations, generation, transmission, distribution and storage workers)
- Communications infrastructure workers (including cellular, satellite, landline, internet, public safety radio)
- Water and wastewater management workers
- Financial services workers (bank branch staff)
- Veterinarians and veterinary teams
- Waste management workers
- Oil and petroleum workers (including petroleum refineries, crude oil and petroleum storage, transmission and distribution, retail sale of fuel)
- Natural gas and propane gas workers (including compression, storage, transmission and distribution of natural gas and propane)
- Mine workers (including those needed to ensure the continued operation of active mines)
- Uranium processing workers (those working in the refining and conversion of uranium and fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants)

Groups that continue to be eligible:

- Adults 16 and older who cannot work from home (remotely) in Group One
- Licensed child care workers
- Education staff who provide direct in-person support to students with complex special needs
- Indigenous persons 16 years of age and older
- Adults 16 and older with the following High-Risk health conditions
- Residents, Primary Essential Caregivers and Staff of High-Risk Congregate Living Settings
- Faith leaders who, as part of their regular role, are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 through close contact with persons and families in the following circumstances:
- Healthcare workers
- Residents, staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, retirement homes, and other congregate care settings for seniors, including assisted living facilities
- 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
- Adults 16 years of age and older who are chronic home care recipients

For more information:

www.hpph.ca/coronavirus

www.ontario.ca/coronavirus

Follow us at www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth and www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth

Call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133

As the nice weather approaches and we remain in a “lockdown” situation with a “stay-at-home” order in effect, we could all use some hope right now. I have come across this Prayer for Hope that I want to share with you.

Prayer for Hope

Heavenly Father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless, There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at it's darkest just before the light. I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory. In your name, I pray, Amen.