

10th Sunday

After



Pentecost

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen
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Ministers

Pastor
Visitation Minister
Minister of Music
Organist
Pianist

PENTECOST 10

August 1, 2021

CONFESSON 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 Savior 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.

GATHERING SONG: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

PERFORMED BY: PAUL SHILTON

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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A reading from Exodus.

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁵Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of

the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalm 78:23-29*

²³So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴**raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

²⁶**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

²⁷raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸**letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**

²⁹So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

A reading from Ephesians.

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to

perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

SERMON:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5Yza1ikZAgS13WANP_ENF

(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: PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and hear the cries of those who come to you for healing (especially Bea, Brian, Murray, Hildegard, Judy, Barbara, Mary, Margaret, Lynnette, Glenn, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby). Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints (especially Arda) and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father,
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.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, 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: WHAT A FEAST OF LOVE

PERFORMED BY PAUL SHILTON

DISMISSAL

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“LIMITED” WORSHIP CONTINUES

WELCOME !!!!

COVID-19 PROTOCOL IS IN PLACE. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CALL IN TO THE OFFICE AT 519-271-8527 MONDAY TO THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. AND FRIDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. TO REGISTER AND BE PLACED ON THE ATTENDANCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE OFFICE.

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

***GREETER: To Be Asked From
Attendance Sheet***

READER: Stephen Fischer

USHERS: Darrell Renecker Team

COUNTING TEAM: Judy Stanley Team



PLEASE NOTE:

THE OFFICE WILL BE **CLOSED** ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 2ND
IN RECOGNITION OF THE CIVIC
HOLIDAY.

WE HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU
HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY LONG WEEKEND !!

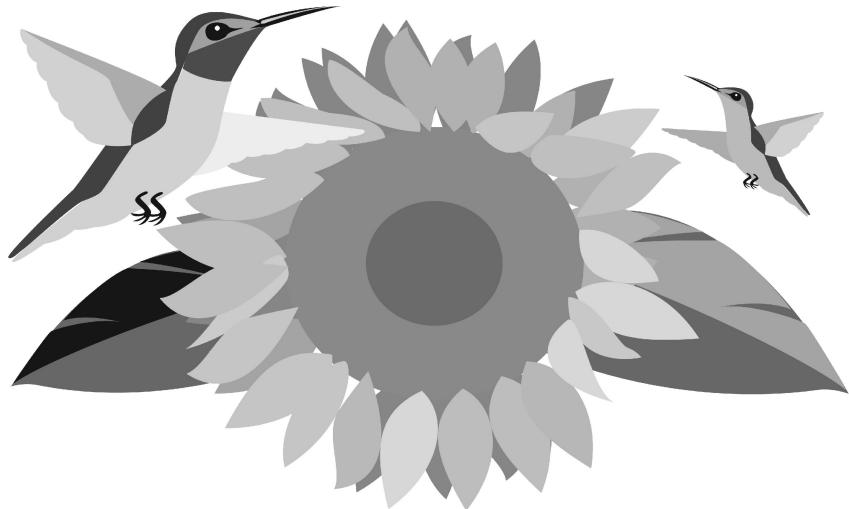


YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We are currently in the planning stage of organizing Schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers for when we are able to re-open our doors for Worship; and, when we are able to do so at full capacity.

If you are able to help by volunteering to be a Reader, Greeter and/or Usher, please call and speak with Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

We deeply appreciate ALL of our current volunteers and are excited to add you to this list of “special” people



ALL EVENTS REMAIN CANCELLED



TODAY'S PRAYER

As we open up gradually from COVID restrictions, and either ourselves or our loved ones are planning more adventures/day trips while on vacation, I thought this prayer was appropriate.

*O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation,
and whose presence we find wherever we go:
Preserve those who travel;
surround them with your loving care;
protect them from every danger;
and bring them in safety to their journey's end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



*Thank You
For Joining Us
For Worship*

*IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE YOU !
WE HOPE YOU COME BACK NEXT WEEK !*