



15th Sunday After PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

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 15

September 5, 2021

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “LORD JESUS CHRIST, BE PRESENT NOW”

PAUL SHILTON ON 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.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: *ISAIAH 35:4-7A*

A reading from Isaiah.

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 146

¹Hal- ¹lelujah!

Praise the LORD, ¹O my soul!

**²I will praise the LORD as long ¹as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I ¹have my being.**

³Put not your ¹trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there ¹is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they re- ¹turn to earth,
and in that day ¹their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹LORD their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ¹is in them;
who keeps promises ¹forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ¹those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ¹captive free.

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who ¹are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares ¹for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall ¹reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: JAMES 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from James.

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there,"

or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus

ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.
³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1in2rLD9qBRqG3mJP>

(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: “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY”

LAURA BURTON ON ORGAN

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labour Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. We pray for all in need of healing, especially Bea, Brian, Murray, Hildegard, Judy, Mary, Elizabeth, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory in your holy church, 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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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: “O BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN”

PAUL SHILTON ON PIANO

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, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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

READER: Dr. Jo Knackstedt

USHERS: Tom Cosstick Team

COUNTING TEAM: Audrey Miller Team

Emergency Appeal for Haiti



Photo courtesy of CARE Canada through CLWR

Haiti was hit with a destructive earthquake on August 14. With numbers expected to rise, it is so far reported that more than 1,900 people were killed and over 10,000 injured by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of the country. Hundreds are still missing, thousands of families have lost their homes and schools, bridges and other vital infrastructure were destroyed. Rescue efforts are being further hampered by tropical storm Grace, all at a time when the country is already grappling with acute poverty and food insecurity, political unrest, and COVID-19.

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) together with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) is inviting you to pray for the people of Haiti, and to consider making a gift. Donations received will provide emergency shelter, sanitation, hygiene, and trauma care for those affected.

Individuals wishing to support relief efforts can donate as follows:

- Make an offering donation in an envelope marked for "Haiti Crisis" with your name and envelope number on the front. This can be dropped off with your Sunday Offering at Worship,
- Send a cheque made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5. Please indicate that you wish to contribute to "Haiti Crisis."
- Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 (locally at 204-694-6502), Monday to Thursday, 9:00-16:00 CDT to donate by credit card or go online at: clwr.org/Haiti

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

HOUSE OF BLESSING UPDATE

We have received an email from Sandy Andress, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Stratford House of Blessing outlining some of their needs.

Their most needed items are:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Feminine Pads

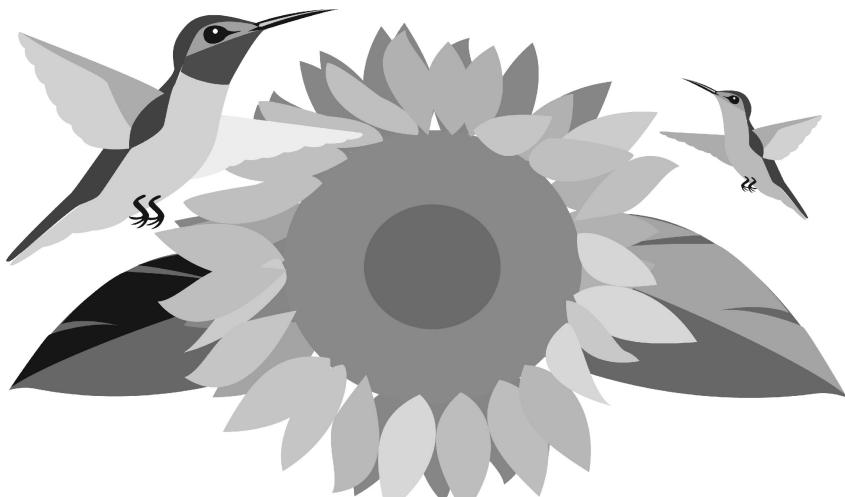
Any other hygiene items would be appreciated as well.

Food Items:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Large Cans of Soup
- Canned Meats (tuna, salmon, ham, chicken)
- Side Dishes
- Cereal
- Cookies & Crackers
- Juice
- Fresh Produce & Meats

We have set out the House of Blessing tote, once again, at the main entrance for your donations. Our plan is to hang on to the donated items for 72 hours; then, while we are still recovering from COVID-19, Sue Bellamy has volunteered to drop off the donations to the House of Blessing. When the pandemic restrictions have been lifted and things have returned back to “normal”, I will then set up a schedule for volunteers to deliver the donations to the House of Blessing.

Thank you for your continued support!!



ALL EVENTS REMAIN CANCELLED

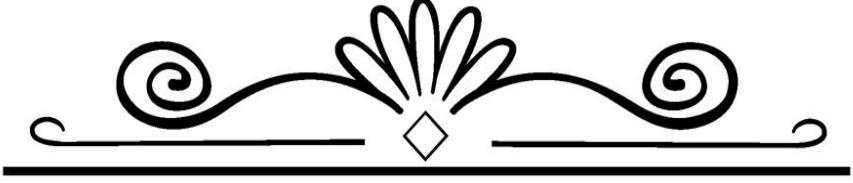


TODAY'S PRAYER

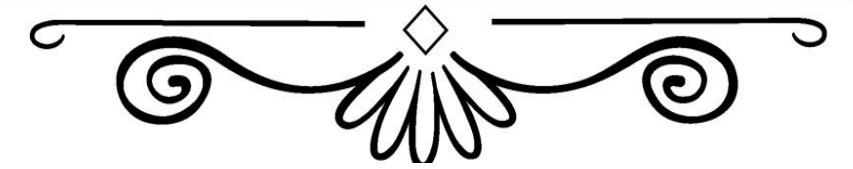
A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN

GRACEFORMOMS.COM



THANK YOU For Joining Us



IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE YOU !

WE HOPE YOU COME AGAIN NEXT WEEK !