"As crisis unfolds in Ukraine, Canadian Lutheran World Relief together with its partner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is calling on Canadians to pray for peace, and to give generously in response to urgent humanitarian needs in the region.

CLWR joins its partners and millions around the world in calling for an immediate end to violence in Ukraine.

Early estimates are that millions of people could be rapidly displaced, leading to a widespread humanitarian crisis.

Our partners in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries are closely monitoring the situation and are preparing to respond to immediate humanitarian needs with food, shelter, emergency supplies and trauma support.

With your help, we can act quickly to protect families and communities threatened by this violence, keeping borders open and creating safe pathways, and providing refuge for those fleeing the conflict.

Please give what you can by donating at clwr.org/ukraine or by calling 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST)."

You may also donate by placing your gift in a regular envelope with your name, envelope number and marking "CLWR Ukraine" on the front of the envelope. Donations may be mailed to Zion or placed in the offering plate at the back of the church, dropped off at the office weekday mornings or in the locked mailbox.

Thank you for your support!



**MARCH 2, 2022** 

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527 Cell: 519-274-1300

email: <u>zionlc@golden.net</u> website: www.zionstratford.com

People of ZionMinistersRev. Jeffrey LaustsenPastorSister Jean WidmeyerVisitation MinisterPaul ShiltonMinister of MusicLaura BurtonOrganistSandra MogensenPianist

Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

HYMN 319: "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

## **Greeting and Prayer of the Day:**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Les us pray:

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm: 51:1-17

Second Reading: 2Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### Sermon:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1jXc1zdW6wDtYnV4\_

HYMN 601: "Saviour, When in Dust to You"

#### Invitation to Lent

L: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbours, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbour. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent - self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### Confession of Sin

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

## Silence for reflection and self-examination

- L: Most holy and merciful God,
- C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- L: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- C: Have mercy on us, O God,
- L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

### The Imposition of Ashes

- L: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Bless these ashes and those who receive them. May this sign of our mortality and penitence remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- C: Amen.

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the ashes on the forehead and to hear the ancient word: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

- L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.
- L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Saviour.
- C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.
- L: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
- C: Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

- L: "...Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer."

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#### The Blessing and Dismissal:

- L: May the peace of Christ bless your journey into Lent.
- C: Now is the time, today is the day of salvation!
- L: May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C: Amen.

HYMN 592: "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in tonight's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

"We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."

# CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF "UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL"

We have received the following email from Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief: