



April 3, 2026

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

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude: “Via Dolorosa”

Words and Music by Billy Sprague and Niles Boris

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Gathering Hymn 351: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm: 22

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

Choir Anthem: “Not My Will”

Lloyd Larson

Sermon

Hymn 353: “Were You There”

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Almighty and eternal God,
you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.
By your Holy Spirit guide the church
and gather it throughout the world.
Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name,
and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for Larry and Carla_ our bishops, for Jeffrey our pastor, for Jean_ our deacon,_ and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Almighty and eternal God,
your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy.
Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors,
other ministers, and lay leaders.
Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church,
and help each of us in our various vocations
to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church.
Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism.
Give them new birth as your children,
and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity.
Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.
Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith,
and keep us united in the fellowship of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Almighty and eternal God,
long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses.

Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names.

Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.

Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe.

Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed.

In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those in need.

Almighty and eternal God,
you give strength to the weary
and new courage to those who have lost heart.
Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers,
free those unjustly deprived of liberty,
and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease.
Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,
that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**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.**

SENDING HYMN: 349 “Ah, Holy Jesus”

SENDING VERSE:

Behold the life-giving cross,
on which was hung the Savior of^l the whole world.
Oh, come, let us^l worship him.

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Behold the life-giving cross,
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Oh, come, let us^l worship him.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
 May God be merciful and bless us;
 may the light of God's face shine upon us.
 Let your way be known upon earth,
 your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
 let all the peoples praise you.
 May God give us blessing,
 and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have re-deemed the world.

Postlude: "Prelude #6"

by Frédéric Chopin

Today, on Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our liturgy recalls the passion and death of Jesus. May God bless you as you worship. May you be a blessing to others.

Silence is an important part of our worship experience this morning. It is in keeping with the dignity and solemnity of the day. It is also why our electric lights are dimmed while we worship. When you leave at the conclusion of our worship, please leave quietly with no exchange of words until you are outside the building.

You are invited to join us for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection on *Easter Sunday at 10 A.M.* Sunday School is cancelled for the day. Families and loved ones are encouraged to worship together.





GOOD *Friday*

When he had
received the drink,

Jesus said,

"It is finished!"

With that, he
bowed his head
and gave up
his spirit.

John 19:30, NIV

