

Sunday, October 11, 2020

From Pastor Stephen, Zion Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON

Welcome: A warm welcome to all who worship with us this week.

We sing our **Gathering Song:** ELW 870 We Praise You, O God

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.**

Let us pray: Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 7 - 16

A reading from Deuteronomy.

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of

Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.

He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Song (Psalm 100): ELW 883 All People That On Earth Do Dwell (sung by Pastor and Cantor)

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15

A reading from Second Corinthians.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confessions of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while

they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Song to Welcome the Gospel: ELW 751 The Lord is My Song
(sung by Cantor)

Gospel: Luke 17: 11 - 19

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were ten not made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

Homily: The other day, someone wished me a Happy Turkey Day. Have a Happy Turkey Day", they said, with bubbly enthusiasm.

I have to admit I was a bit puzzled. First of all, how do you find a happy turkey these days...they are either way too hot or way too cold to be all that happy.

But I was even more puzzled by the thought that even Thanksgiving Day had become too religious in our culture, and people were having to find other names for it.

I felt like saying, “Yes, I’ll have a great Turkey Day...just as soon as I buy a holiday tree for December 25 and get measured for my Easter Bunny suit.” My luck, she would have missed the sarcasm and asked where you can get Easter Bunny suits.

Giving thanks is actually a very religious thing to do ...it is at the heart of all we do as Christians and defines our life. The ancient name the Church used for Sunday’s worship, Eucharist, means thanksgiving. The name reminds us that every day is a thanksgiving to God and celebration of God’s graciousness and generosity, especially shown in Jesus the Christ.

Everything we say and do as Christians is motivated by our thankfulness for Christ’s life, death and resurrection...and for sharing his risen life as a gift. All we can offer to God, for all of God’s kindness, is thanksgiving.

Sometimes, as Christians, we forget this; we forget to be thankful. It happens to even the most faithful and sincere people. Look at 9 of the 10 lepers in today’s Gospel. They were preoccupied by other things, busy doing other important things, and did not stop to say thanks to God for healing and wholeness. You cannot blame them, really. They simply went off to do what Jesus had told them to do: show themselves to the priest and be declared healed.

The problem of course, is that they had been trained from childhood to give thanks to God. The foreigner, who might not have been trained to give thanks, did so spontaneously out of gratitude. Nothing for him was as important as giving thanks,

everything else could just wait. Nothing got in the way of his gratitude.

A parishioner, suffering from a debilitating illness, once reminded me of the importance of always being thankful. My prayers for her were always for healing and strength; but to my prayers she always added prayers of thanksgiving for all that God had blessed her with in life ...offering thanksgiving in the midst of her pain and struggle. In a sense, that liberated her from the power that pain and impending death had over her, as she proclaimed that these things would not have the final words or victory in her life. “There are things much worse than death,” she told me once, “like not being able to thank God for what was and what will be in Christ our Lord.”

There are some attitudes in our culture that make thanksgiving difficult – like the view that we have somehow earned everything we have. It is like Homer Simpson’s prayer: “Thank you, God, for everything, even though I paid for it.” After which Bart says, “Amen”, making it the shortest thanksgiving prayer in the history of the world.

A First Nation elder once said, at a gathering, that nothing we had was ever earned, nor could we ever own anything, because everything we have is borrowed from the Creator and from the children who come after us.

Greed is not an acceptable response to God’s goodness, and yet it is the most acceptable sin in our culture, and some really truly greedy people have become heroes and people we look up to because we think that is a measure of success.

Keep in mind that Jesus talked about the folly of building bigger barns and the wisdom of storing treasure in Heaven. Greedy people are a long way from the Kingdom of Heaven and a culture

built on greed will eventually come to an end, because it was not what God intended for us and it will not receive God's blessing. A culture based on Thanksgiving to God will never have trouble sharing, nor will it ever glorify hoarding as a way of finding meaning in life.

So we gather together in thanksgiving today, realizing that giving thanks changes us and changes how we look at all we have and all we do, touching all parts of our life. When we live that way, every day will be a day of thanksgiving, with or without turkey.

Amen.

Hymn: ELW 840 Now Thank We All Our God

Prayers of the Faithful: Gracious God, you open wide your hands in blessing and satisfy the needs of all your creatures, giving us what we need with generosity. Bless all who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty and toil so that we may be fed. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we thank you for the lives of all your beloved children, for Hilda as we said farewell to her; and for Grant, as we interred his ashes on Friday, a beloved husband to Carol and a gift from you to his family and friends. May they dwell forever in God's paradise. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Kelly and Hoffman families as they mourn for Inez. Hold them in your mercy and comfort them in their grief. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, watch over our loved ones; especially those we cannot be with this Thanksgiving weekend. Surround them with your holy presence and help them know they are cherished and never alone, for you are always with them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle God, bring peace to our hearts in these troubled and fearful times. Be with all whose anxiety feels overwhelming and help us be gentle and kind with people struggling to cope. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for all who are ill and all who are preparing for, or recovering from surgery: Carol Boldt, Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Alison Kellough, Ellen Vandersleen, and all who seek peace and wholeness. We thank you for your gifts of healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are working on vaccines and treatments during the pandemic and for all who care for those struggling with the virus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious God.

Gathering all our prayers into one, we pray the prayer that you have taught us:

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: May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Song: ELW 679 For the Fruit of All Creation

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

News and Announcements

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Carol Boldt, Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Allison Kellough, Jean Kuehl, Ellen Vandersleen.

Please Pray For Those Who Mourn the Loss of Loved Ones; especially, this day we pray for the families of Inez Kelly (nee Hoffman) and all who loved Hilda Klawitter, that they may find comfort in the promises of the risen Saviour.

A DONATION has been made to the General Fund by Cheryl Sack & family in loving memory of Fred Gorr who passed away on October 11, 1994. *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Matthew 24:35*

A DONATION has been made towards upgrading our video equipment by June Popke in thankfulness to God for her family, health and all His blessings these past months. *“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.” Psalm 62:8*

THANK YOU – We extend our gratitude to our vocalists today: David Lehman, Allen Rose and Cantor, Jan Scheidt. Your gift of music is a blessing to us all.

EMERGENCY CLOSING - With Covid-19 creating so much uncertainty we feel it is necessary to have a plan in place on how we will notify our members if we need to close the church on short notice. Should this be required there will be lots of media attention that should have the members questioning our closing. We will do the following:

- Have the voicemail message at the church office updated indicating our closing date and restrictions.
- A message will be posted on our Facebook account and our church website.
- We will send an email to all members who have an email account on file.
- We will identify people that have been attending our worship services by using the registration sheets completed each week and will call these people.

Susan Dupuis, Council Chair

OFFICE HOURS – The church office has begun to be open again. It is currently open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9am until 12 noon. When coming into the office, please remember to wear your face mask, as this will be mandatory.

OFFERING UPDATE -We are truly blessed to have received your offerings over the past 5 months. We would like to ask you to consider the following which will help to keep us safe: use a cheque in your envelope in place of cash, e-transfer your offering

to zionoffice@nrtco.net, sign up to have your offering automatically withdrawn from your account each month.

Susan Dupuis, Counting Co-ordinator

CONFIRMATION GATHERINGS (classes) resumed on September 13th, gathering in the parish hall (to allow for social distancing) at 11:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

The Confirmation Schedule for September and October:

October 4th, Group A

October 11th, Thanksgiving Sunday, no class

October 18th, Group B (*Confirmands - last class*)

October 25th, Confirmation for Group B, 11:00 A.M.

No class for new first year confirmation youth will be held this year, with a combined grade 7 and 8 class being offered next Autumn. Pastor Stephen

IPAD/TABLET COURSE - Tuesday, October 13. iPad/ tablet course is continuing. Topic is Features of Facebook. For registration, please contact Jan Scheidt at (613) 631-0658

NOTE FROM WORSHIP & MUSIC – As we are following recommendations from the Renfrew County Health Unit and Synod, we are not singing our hymns as a congregation. At our planning meetings for the resumption of our services it was felt that if the words to the hymns were projected, we would all be tempted to start singing. For that reason, the words are not being projected.

CLWR LEARNING AND LIVING KITS CANCELLED - We have just heard from our Dean of the Ottawa St. Lawrence Conference Area Bruce Thompson that due to the COVID Pandemic the

learning kits will not be able to be shipped due to excessive cost and difficulty in shipping this year.

If you have already purchased items for the kits, we would still welcome your donations. We have made arrangement to give the school supplies to children in need in our own community. The toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap, etc. will be packaged along with other items for the residents of Carefor at Christmas.

You may bring you donations into the church and we will collect them in the big yellow bag but the supplies will be used locally. We shall keep you updated when we receive more information. Thank you for your understanding.

Ellen Vandersleen, Chair Social Ministry Committee

NEW DATE FOR GARAGE SALE

Saturday October 17, 2020

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Proceeds will be donated to the Robbie Dean Center and Zion's New AV equipment. Thank you for your most generous donations.

Looking for Volunteers. If you can help with set up or on the day of the event, please let Ellen know @ 613-732-7649. Help is always welcome!

Susan Dupuis - Chairperson of church council was in contact with the Health Unit and was given a go ahead. The event is monitored and everyone will be required to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. We will be following Covid guidelines. It will be like when we go out for groceries, etc.

Should regulations increase, the event will be cancelled. Please watch for notices or posts on Facebook. You may also phone Ellen Vandersleen.

Today's Scheduled Worship Leaders

Counters: Gayle & Larry Seegmiller, Des Schrie

Greeter: Patricia Wegner

Guides: Debbie Wegner, Allen Rose

Projector Operator: Kerrie Lynne Wilson

Sexton: Koit Rull

Worship Assistant: Sandra Sell

This Week at Zion – October 12 - 18

Mon		Thanksgiving
Tues	10 a.m.	Ipad/Tablet Course
Wed	10:30 a.m.	Monthly Mid-Week Communion
		BULLETIN DEADLINE
Thurs		GUIDING LIGHT DEADLINE
Sat	8 a.m.	Garage Sale
Sun	10 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11:30 a.m.	Confirmation Group B