



February 28, 2021 – Lent 2 – Service of the Word

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Called by Christ, we gather as one;
Blessed by God's wisdom.

We gather to learn.

Amazed by God's love we gather to worship.

COME LET US WORSHIP



Confession and Forgiveness

P: Three in one God,

Creator, Child, and Holy Spirit, ✝

We give thanks for your mercy and ask for forgiveness. Amen.

Loving God,

All: Forgive us.

We have neglected to see the face of Christ in our neighbour.

We have walked past the person begging on the street and neglected to recognize their humanity.

We have become estranged from humanity, forgetting the web of life connects us all.

All: Forgive us.

We are quick to anger, to cast judgement, and our words pierce like swords when we speak from these places.

We let fear, doubt, and unknowingness guide our actions.

All: Forgive us.

We confess our self-centeredness, need to succeed, and capitalistic-like thinking has turned us from you and your message of justice and love.

All: Forgive us.

P: God who meets us in the face of each person we meet,

Who paints the sky with colours that calm the soul,

Who creates a soundscape of rushing rivers,

All: Who gives grace to the world through the winds of the Holy Spirit,

Open our hearts to be transformed and changed.

P: You are forgiven.

Through the love of God, in the name of God, ✠ your sins are forgiven.
Baptism remains forever. God's love is here!
Inspiring God, guide us to be agents of change, knowing that our decisions,
our actions and inactions affect all people. Help us to have the courage and
strength to move forward, to let our hearts and minds be overflowing with
love, grace, and a deep awareness that you are with us, guiding us on the
journey.

Compassionate God, Three in one. – ✠ Amen.
(*Pastor Brooklynn Lane, ELCIC*)

GATHERING HYMN - ELW #323 - "God Loved the World" – (verses 1, 3, 5)

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.**

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of
shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the
cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and
said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I
will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly
numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me,

this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – spoken

ALL:

**Return to the Lord, your God, return to the Lord,
your God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**



GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

SERMON **Pastor Leena Jensen**

Grace to you and peace from God: Creator Redeemer and Sanctifier
Season of Lent is the time to reflect, repent, and re-start our true and faithful *life*.

In the time of Lent, we are to focus on our relationship with God.

In the Gospel reading from Mark, Jesus gets serious with the disciples about his imminent future. Peter decides to challenge these notions of the suffering and death to come, but Jesus, in a stunning moment, sternly rebukes Peter, calling him *Satan!* We are reminded that we all go about our lives setting our minds on human things and not divine things in everyday life, and this is a direct cue to stop for a moment and think about the words of Jesus:

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. *For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?* Because we are so tied to “this” life, losing it for the sake of Jesus *and for the sake of the Gospel* is neither comfortable nor comforting. Speaking of our faith publicly ~ as in witnessing ~ is even more difficult for many of us.

I couldn't help but think about how do we live our lives? We are good Christians, we live from our hearts, our Christ center or do we live and take our cues from outside ourselves?

This caused me to think of how people live their lives from the outside in. not from the heart out, but the outside in.

I would name people who live from the outside in, those who don't know what their political beliefs are until they read their favourite newspaper columnist, or their favourite blogger. Now we live in an age of social media influencers on the internet, people refer to them for what books to read, like Oprah's book club. Or we go to Pinterest to plan our perfect Christmas party or we don't know what to wear we consult the social media fashion gurus. Just check out the magazines on the way out the grocery line there is someone there to tell you what you should do or not do and they are persuasive. These outside in people don't know how to respond to the controversial issues of the day until they check everyone else and still struggle to make up their own mind.

Living life from the outside in -- we have all been there at one point or another in our journeys. When we can understand this, it is how we actually manage day to day living. We are the same people Jesus had in mind when he talked about people who have gained the whole world but forfeited their lives. So, we have it backwards, Jesus says, live from the inside out, not from the outside in.

We must carry a cross to remind us that there are those who suffer and that we must fight for justice in the lives of others with our cross upon our backs. As Jesus died on the cross for us, we take up the cross to carry on the work Jesus did. Worked for social justice, helped those that suffered.

All around us we see injustice, we see unfair practices, and in taking up our cross, we see these injustices and understand what others are experiencing and living through. These are the things that we are called to correct. The cross we carry is our reminder of the correct direction our life needs to take.

Though it may take time, if we keep carrying the cross, we may learn that others suffer as we do. We must carry a cross to remind us that we are responsible in part for the cross that Jesus carried. When Rembrandt painted his famous work of the crucifixion called "The Three Crosses" which now hangs in the Louvre in Paris he did something most unusual. Among the faces in the crowd beneath the cross, he painted himself. That was his way of saying that he could not envision the crucifixion without admitting that he had a participation in it. Unfortunately, there are some who never see that. They identify with the Christ on the cross, rather than the Rembrandt in the crowd.

In the hymn "Were you there when they crucified my Lord." The emphasis is on the you and me. If we were to be perfectly honest, we would have to answer yes, I was there. Yes, I had a role in this. It is only as we come to that understanding that we can then sing the last part of the hymn: Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

If we infer, what happened to Jesus was so long ago and has nothing to do with us today, then I think we are missing the point of Jesus' words, "Take up your cross and follow me." Jesus does not simply want us to remember his cross as something he himself suffered on our behalf. If he did he would have simply said take up MY cross and follow me. Instead, he told us to take up our own cross. I think by that he meant that we need to identify with the event of the crucifixion as to see ourselves in the story. It is not simply His story; it is our story as well. I think that it is most tragic if we go through this entire Lenten season and never fully understand our role in the whole crucifixion drama.

So, why must we carry a cross? To remind us, that there are others in this world who suffer, and that ultimately, we are responsible for the indignity and shame which Christ suffered upon the cross. But you have a choice. You can lay down the cross you have been given to bear and passively live your life with no challenges or you can take it up and be transformed, living for something greater than yourself. The choice is yours. I encourage you though, Take it Up! Take up your cross, come, and follow Him! Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW #808 – "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. (We pray for Palestine and Israel, Canada and the United States, The European Union and for peace in Myanmar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We Pray for the Call Committee of the Zion Lutheran Church, as they prepare to call a new pastor. Pray we focus on what matters: a person who loves Christ, His Word, and His church. Pray the new pastor will be a person of Christ-like character. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. We pray for Florence, Jason, Harold, Richard, Robert, Dorian, Sharon, and those we name silently in our hearts that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. (*The church outreach programs, the ministry of CLWR, our Hospitality ministry and community foodbank ministry*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah, which you have opened to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. In Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray,

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, uphold you on the way.

SENDING SONG - ELW #802 – *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”*

DISMISSAL

Disciples of Jesus, do not shun the way of the cross, but follow wherever our Lord may lead.

GO IN PEACE, CHRIST IS WITH YOU!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special

Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Harold Hampel, Richard Hubert, Robert Schoof, Dorian Verch, Sharon Watt.

DONATION

In appreciation to almighty God for his gifts to me, I wish to give this gift of \$100 to the building fund in honour of my sister, Margaret King who will be 100 years of age on March 4, 2021. We would like to wish Margaret King a very happy birthday this coming Thursday, March 4th. Margaret will be turning 100! Even in this crazy world we find many things to celebrate. Hope you have a very special day. From your church family

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday mornings a week later.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday, March 14th at 11.30am in the fellowship hall after Sunday Worship.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Please remember that Pastor Leena is available to all for pastoral care during the next few months. This support may look different than we are accustomed to as she will be following all of the covid restrictions. She can be contacted at 613-631-1082

2. Zion's Annual Meeting: I am planning to hold the annual meeting on February 28 with March 7 as the alternate date if the February 28 date is cancelled. We will be holding a short worship service at 10:00 and will follow with the meeting at 10:30. The meeting will be a maximum of 1 hour long. I realize that attending in-person may not be possible for many members. We do not have the ability to do an electronic meeting at this time. We have sent the annual report by e-mail to anyone that we have an address for. If you would like to pick up a print copy of the report, please call Jean to make the arrangement for pick up. If you will not be able to attend and have any questions regarding the report please give me, Susan Dupuis 343-369-2057 or Gerry Vandersleen 613-732-7649 a call.

HELP FOR ONE OF ZION'S FAMILIES

It is with a caring and prayerful heart that the Social Ministry Committee is appealing to Zion's church family and friends to assist one of our young families.

Jason and Karen Godin, with their children Haley and Lucas are active members here at Zion. Jason is the son-in-law of Cheryl Sack and brother-in-law of Blaine Sack. Jason works as a Commissionaire Barrack Warden at Garrison Petawawa as well as a volunteer firefighter for Petawawa.

Jason recently received a Glioblastoma brain cancer diagnosis - the same type of cancer that Gord Downie battled. Jason will be needing radiation and chemotherapy treatment for this aggressive, incurable type of cancer. With the long road ahead; they could use some assistance as Jason's work benefits will not be enough to cover the many expenses that will be incurred in the foreseeable future. Therefore, we are asking for your help to soften the financial stress. Let us show them our love and support.

You can help with your contribution of cash, cheque or e- transfer.

- Make the cheque payable to Zion Lutheran Church, noting 'Karen and Jason Godin' on the envelope or the memo line. You can drop off the cheque at the church office or mail it to:

Zion Lutheran Church,
454 Miller Street,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4.

****Please note that we will not be able to issue donation receipts for this appeal due to what the CRA refers to as “private benevolence”. The CRA does not permit a charitable donation receipt under these circumstances.**

- Use your online banking to send an e-transfer to:
“zionoffice@nrtco.net”. Passwords are not required as auto deposit is set up. Please indicate that it is for Karen and Jason in the message box.

We pray for God’s healing touch. Thank You and blessings to each of you for your generosity!

ZLW NEWS

1. Our ZLW will be meeting this Wednesday, March 3rd at 2pm. For a Lenten program called “Journey to the Cross” with Ellen Vandersleen and Susan Dupuis. A meditative interactive walk on Jesus’ Journey to the Cross. Shut out the noise and distractions of everyday life to quiet your soul and listen to the Spirit of God. Everyone is welcome to attend this special event to walk through the stations of the cross for meditation and reflection. You will walk alone or with a partner.

2. The World Day of Prayer 2021 service video, prepared by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada, can be accessed by going to wicc.org and clicking on the One Hour Service Video box

If anyone would like to make a donation they may do so by donating online at wicc.org or mailing a cheque to:

WICC, 47 Queen's Park Cres E., Toronto, ON, M5S 2C3

This Week at Zion – March 1 - 7

Tuesday	7pm	Worship & Music Committee Mtg.
	7p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	1pm	Staff Mtg.
	2pm	ZLW Mtg.
	7pm	Lenten Service
Sunday	10am	Lent 3 Worship Service with Holy Communion