

March 7, 2021 – Lent 3

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING/ CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people

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



of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +ever creating, ever transforming, ever enlivening, source of love and liberation, our heart and our home. Amen.

We are unfinished. Our universe is unfinished. We confess the ways in which we attempt to limit God's creative power working in and through us.

Silence

Creating God, shape us into fruitful co-creators and faithful stewards of your design, liberated by your covenant to bless and be a blessing.

In Jesus we have met the one who, with his very life, showed us the power of love to transform the lives of all who are vulnerable. We confess the ways in which we steadfastly cling to our rights and entitlements, refusing to be changed, or even touched, by the world's pain.

Silence

Transforming Christ, move us from comfort to courage, from empathy to engagement, from prayer to policy change.

All things belong together; we are many, and we are one. We confess the ways in which we have allowed separation from God-within-me, from God-within-you, from God-within-creation to define us.

Silence

Enlivening Spirit, breathe into us the breath of your grace that we may release our hold on the fear and arrogance that keeps us from knowing wholeness.

Silence

Beloved, God's forgiveness is fulfilled in Christ. Because we are unfinished, we are ever being recreated. Because we have met Jesus, we are ever being transformed. Because we are both many and one, we are ever being enlivened with the Spirit's power-the grace of God, in whom we live and

move and have our being. Forgiveness, grace, and love are yours to have
✠and yours to share, now and always. Amen. *Rev. Jennifer Hoover, ELCIC*

GATHERING SONG - ELW #324 - "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

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 - Page 98

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, you taught your people to live in community by being honest, trustworthy, faithful and respectful of life, family and property. Awaken in us the call of your Spirit that your love would continue to give light to our eyes and bring voice to our lips; that we might see not as the world sees, but through your eyes, and to speak not as the world speaks, but with your voice. Responsive to the world's cries of injustice, the desperation of the needy, the anger of the wronged, and the despair of the hopeless, may we start overturning some temple tables of our own, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour 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: Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from Exodus.

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the

form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Recited by All*

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

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - God's Love Is Not for Sale

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

It's a jarring image: A violent Jesus, physically casting away people abusing the Church He loves and protects.

Jesus grabbing a whip and throwing people out of the temple who were using it for profit is a powerful image because Jesus preached peace-making, not fighting. He preached patience and gentleness, not anger and violence. If He was getting *that* angry, it was clear that an extremely grave offense was being committed. The kind of behavior Jesus displayed in the

temple that afternoon isn't forbidden, but it wasn't exactly a daily part of Jesus' life, either.

So it was a **bad** day at the Temple for those livestock sellers and money changers. Such activity was forbidden in the temple but the authorities who were present were clearly looking the other way! The high priest received a percentage of the profit from the money changers and merchants, so their removal from the Temple would have caused a financial loss to him.

Because pilgrims were not familiar with Jerusalem, the Temple merchants sold sacrificial animals at a higher price than elsewhere in the city. The high priest overlooked their dishonesty, as long as he got his share.

So the scene we are looking at, is merchants and live animals, birds in cages, money exchanging hands, maybe merchants gouging innocent worshippers from out of town. It would have been noisy like any marketplace and very stinky from the animals, yet this marketplace on the entrance to the temple would have been the only place Gentiles could worship.

Bible scholars think this incident happened at Solomon's Porch, the outermost part on the east side of the Temple. Archaeologists have found a Greek inscription dated to 20 B.C. from the Court of the Gentiles, which warns non-Jews not to go any further into the Temple, on fear of death.

The moneychangers were making it hard for common people to worship God. The outer court was full of bleating lambs and sellers hawking their wares and people exchanging money.

No one was focused on God.

Beside his anger at the money changers' greed, Jesus hated the noise and commotion in the court, which would have made it impossible for devout Gentiles to pray there.

We may not have shady characters collecting temple taxes outside our churches in modern times, but we do have them invading our homes through radio, television and the internet. I must get three phone calls a week, telling me that my taxes are in arrears and the police are coming to arrest me because there was illegal activity on my tax return. Please do not fall for these thieves.

We are best to respond as Jesus did to such selfish swindlers. With no apologies, he drove them out of His Father's house. When we identify a

modern money changer, we should do the same, not to give them any power over our lives.

Jesus cleansed the Temple because sinful activities interfered with worship. The Gospels tell us that Jesus Christ was ushering in a new covenant with humanity, in which animal sacrifice would end, replaced by the perfect sacrifice of his life on the cross, atoning for human sin once and for all.

"When Jesus said he could build the temple in three days, he was trying to get people to recognize the kingdom of God was within him and to believe in him,"

Jesus spoke of his body as the temple. The three days he mentioned referred to his resurrection on the third day. Jesus was the reality to which the temple pointed.

When Jesus was preparing his disciples for his departure, he assured them that when he ascended back to the Father that his followers would accomplish greater works than he was able to do. Jesus was able to say this because God is no longer confined to the temple or the church building. Jesus, the kingdom of God, has come and is moving through each and every one of us. We live each day expectantly. Just maybe we need to cleanse our hearts of attitude that are coming between us and God.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Today, God doesn't dwell in buildings, but in the hearts of his people. When we come to worship God, we must put aside all distractions and agendas. Jesus wants his people to experience the joy and peace of undistracted devotion. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW #772 – “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

RECOGNITION OF PAST COUNCIL MEMBERS/INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH COUNCIL

Our new council will be: Susan Dupuis, Rick Gerundin, Jill Kellough, Scott Lange, Denise Schizkoske, Diana Wegner, Patricia Wegner, Kathy Nieman and Karen Gauthier.

We also recognize the following who have finished their terms: Ellen Vandersleen - 6 years, Diane Leeder - 6 years, Wilmer Verch - 3 years.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all (we pray for the governments of Canada, the USA, the European Union, China and Myanmar. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering; especially, Florence, Jason, Harold, Richard, Robert, Dorian, Sharon. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for (*Perpetua, Felicity, and*) all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling.

It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration, a place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs.

Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God. (John 2:16)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

May the gifts we bring be gifts of love. May the offerings we share be offerings of our hearts. May each gift be blessed by your grace, that others may know the truth of our wisdom and your love. Amen.

COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer Philip Mathai, ELCIC Eastern Synod

God our Creator, in you we, with all of creation, find our source.

Yet, from the very beginning we rebuffed your love in various ways,

We lorded over the weak and powerless and those that were different among us and over the created order.

But you reached out in love and faithfulness to us, through the ages.

In Jesus Christ, your Son, we experience the embodiment of divine love, justice and grace:

As he became one among us,

Had the boldness to cross boundaries of creed, race, and political and religious power,

He was not cowed down by the powers that be in confronting social, racial, and misogynistic injustice,

He socialized with and befriended the poor, outcasts and the rejected of his times,

Leading to his ultimate sacrifice of himself on the cross.

In the night he was betrayed, Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends. During the meal, he took bread, gave thanks to God for their

physical nourishment, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples at the table with him, saying, "This is my body that has been broken for you, receive this in faith and remember that I died for you."

After they had finished eating, he distributed the wine, saying, "This wine represents the covenant of forgiveness and love God has made with you, receive this in faith and remember that I died for you."

Gracious God, as we break the bread and pour the wine, we remember the poor, the oppressed, the racialized, and the whole world reeling under the yoke of the pandemic. We remember that Christ's body was broken so that the hungry might be nourished, the oppressed set free, the racialized experience equity, and the sick experience healing, rejuvenated with the bread and wine of new hope and new life.

Empower us, O God, to be like Jesus Christ.

Gathering God, we have shared the bread and wine as members of the one body of Jesus Christ; gather us as your people to share one another's burdens and pains and be that healing presence in the world, striving for justice, peace, equity and love for all people and the created order; let us be that family of hope connected by cords that cannot be broken.

Gather us, O God, as one in Jesus Christ.

Sanctifying God, may the Holy Spirit bless this meal as we partake of it, grant us that spirit of repentance and send us out into our broken world as your presence of healing and love.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

LAMB OF GOD

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #767 – *“Lord Take My Hand And Lead Me”*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

God of silent creation,
Son of healing touch,
Spirit of desert-leading,
Bless our Lenten journey. $\text{†} \text{†}$ Amen

SENDING SONG - ELW #806 – *“O God, My Faithful God”*

DISMISSAL

In the Lenten week ahead, find time and space to listen for God’s glory as it is spoken in the world around you.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Lent is sort of a spring cleaning for the soul. It’s a season when God wants us to examine ourselves and meditate on Him, His Word and His plan for our lives.

During these weeks leading up to Easter and ponder these questions during your moments of prayer.

1. Am I spending enough time studying His Word and praying?
2. Do I have a thankful heart, or am I constantly complaining about situations and people in my life?
3. What are the lurking sin problems that still tempt me?
4. Do I speak up for the less fortunate, or do I remain silent and inactive?

5. Do I stand up for my Christian beliefs, or do I compromise my faith in order to be politically correct?
6. Do I look for the best in others, or do I have a judgmental attitude?

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.

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. There will be congregational meeting on Sunday, March 14th following the service to hold a vote on calling a new pastor recommended by the Call Committee and endorsed by Church Council. Please be sure to attend this important meeting in the life of Zion.

REGISTERING FOR EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

At this past week's Worship & Music Committee meeting, it was decided that we will once again have 2 Easter Sunday services – at 8am and 10:30am. Those wishing to attend will need to contact the church office by phone at 613-732-8792, or email at zionoffice@nrtco.net to pre-register (similar to what was done for the Christmas Eve services). We will take pre-registrations until March 29th. The church office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9am until 12 noon to receive your phone calls.

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"](mailto: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!

Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's Production Crew:

Presider: Pastor Leena Jensen

Musician: Blaine Sack

Worship Assistant/Reader: Lorraine MacKenzie

Projectionist: Diane Hammel
Recorder: Rick Gerundin
Sound Board Operator: Larry Seegmiller
Credit Researcher: Diane Hammel

Today's Worship Volunteers

Counters: Gayle & Larry Seegmiller, Des Schrie
Sexton: David Lehman
Ushers: Vince & Emma Rabishaw

This Week at Zion – March 8 - 14

Monday	7pm	Property Committee Mtg.
Tuesday	7pm	Church Council Mtg.
	7p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	10:30am	Mid Week Service
	7pm	Lenten Service
Thursday	9:30am	Clergy Cluster Mtg. @ Zion
Sunday	10am	Lent 4 Worship Service with Holy Communion
	11am	Congregational Mtg.
	11:30am	Confirmation Class
		Daylight Savings Time Begins