

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

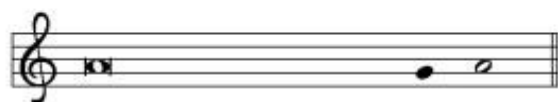
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

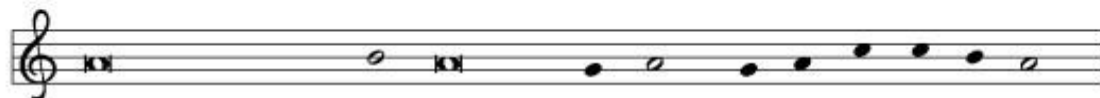
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

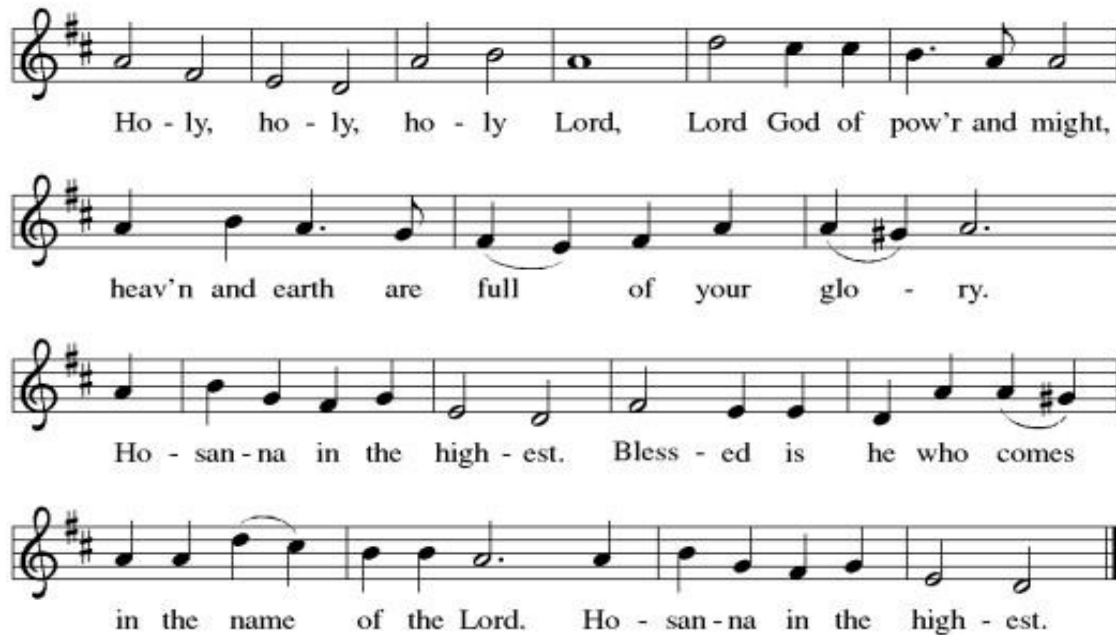
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

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Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

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Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

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In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

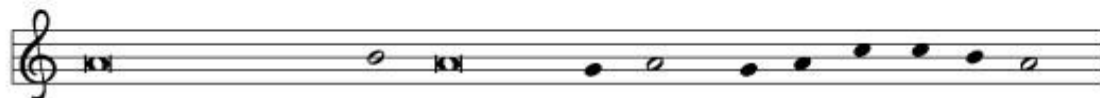
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



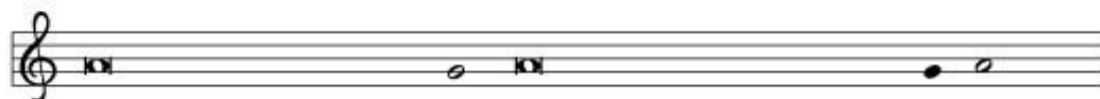
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

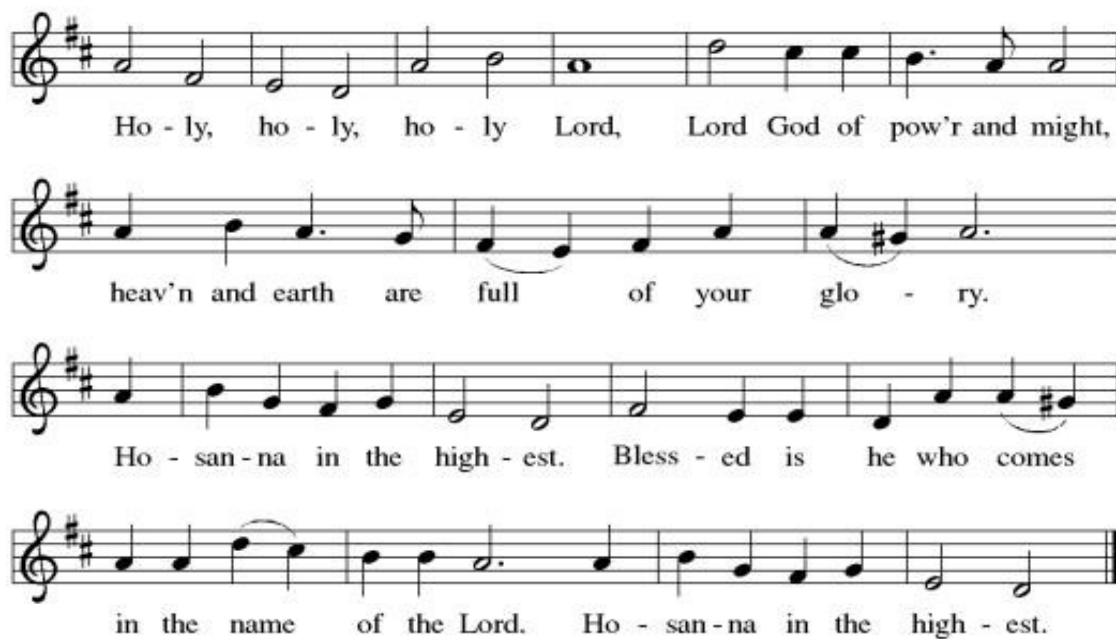
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men’s Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

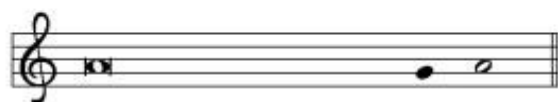
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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 (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

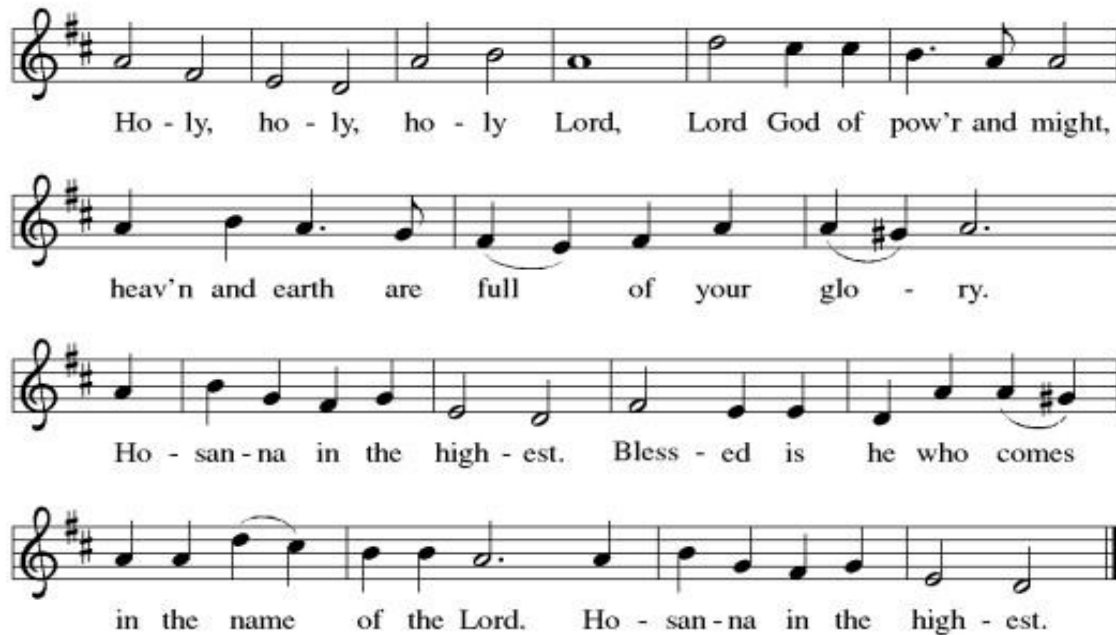
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984. Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

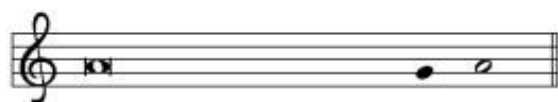
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

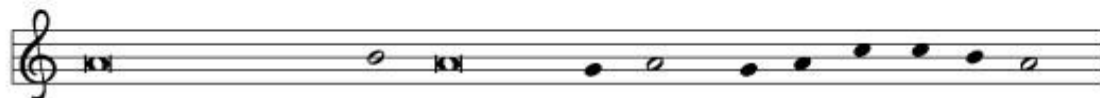
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



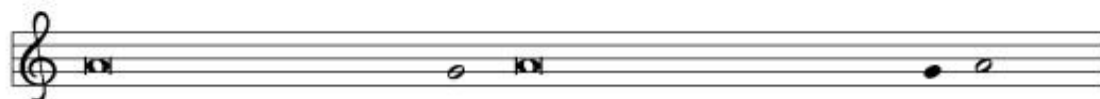
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

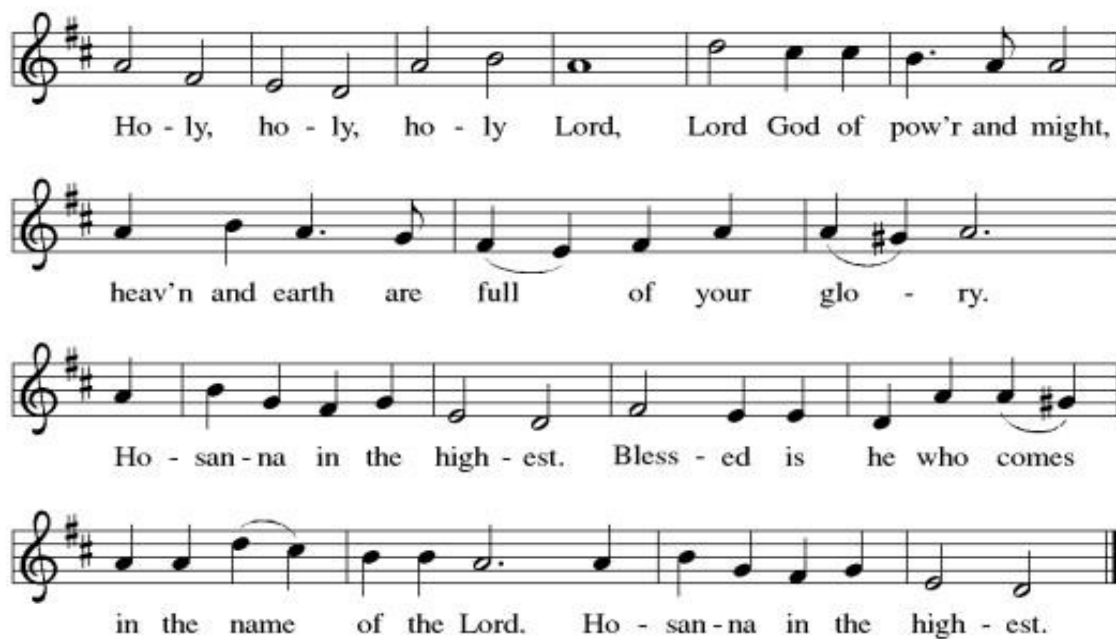
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

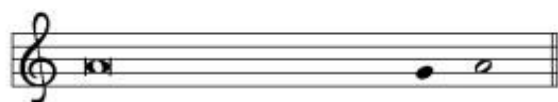
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

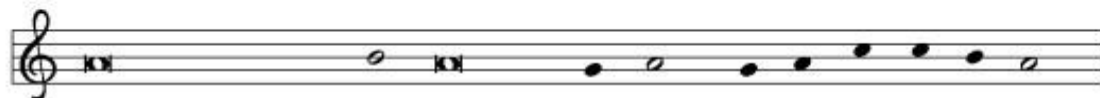
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



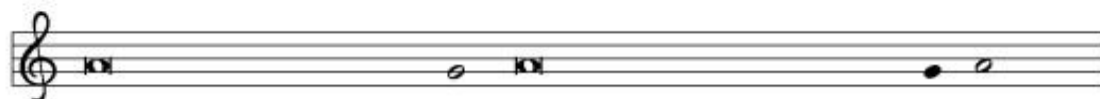
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

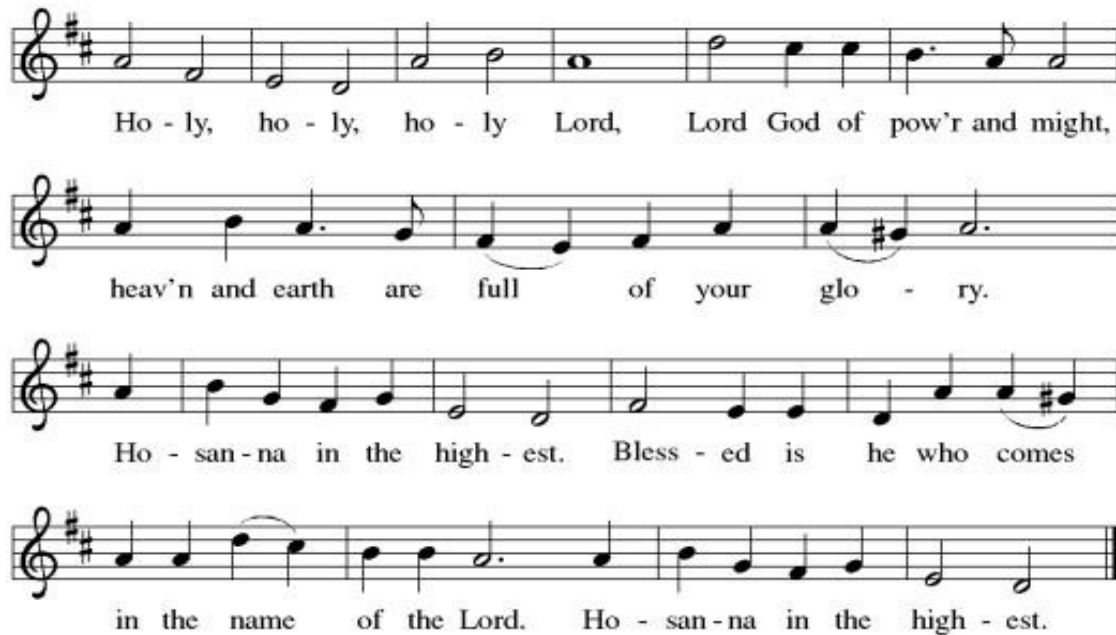
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984. Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

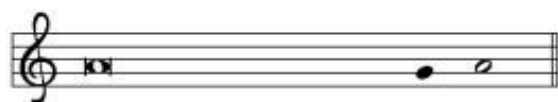
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

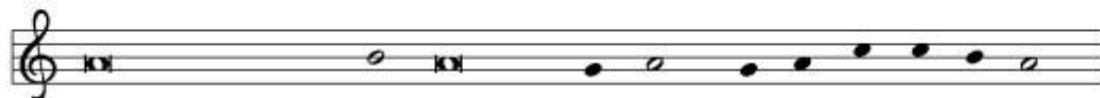
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

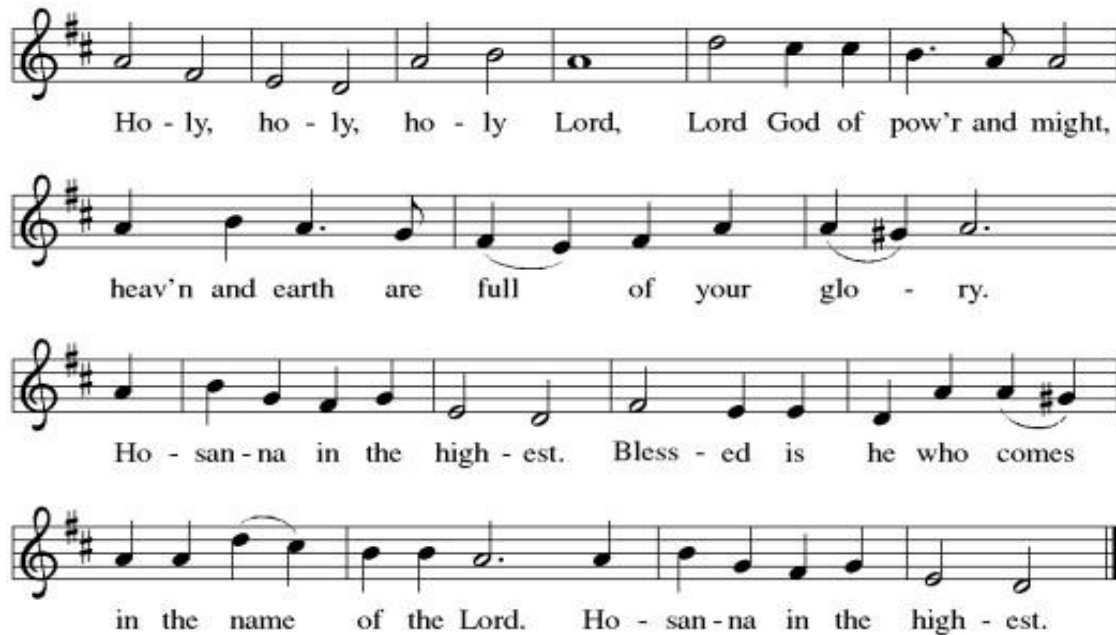
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984. Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979. Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-728050.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333(Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

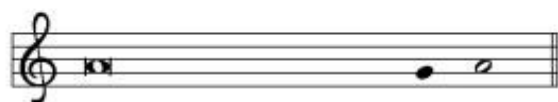
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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 (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

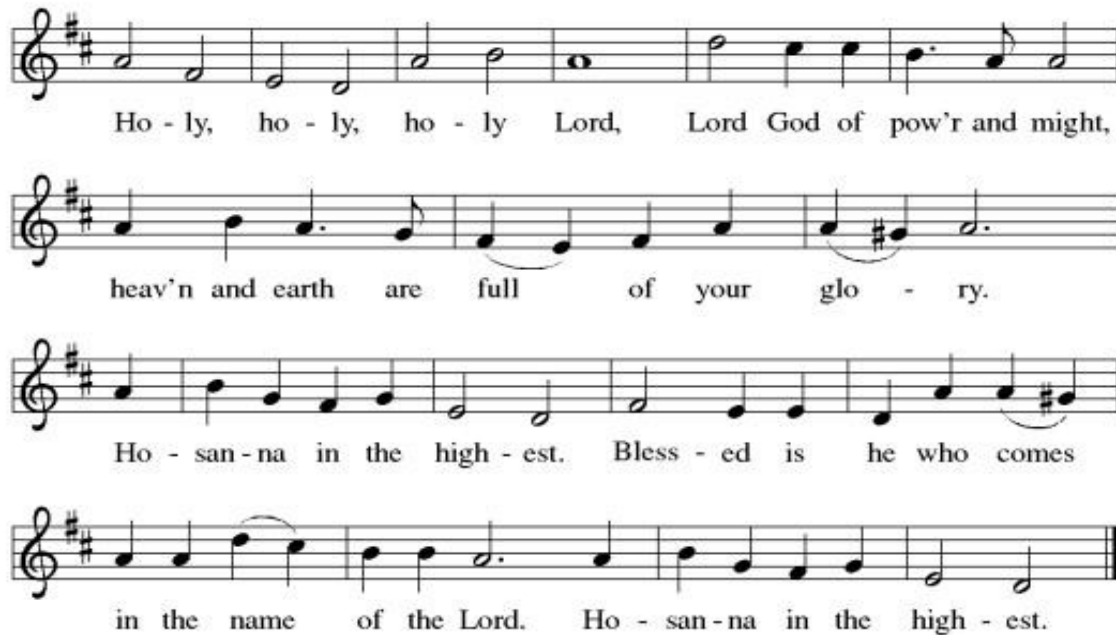
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333 (Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 454 Miller Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4 Office: 613-732-8792

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 30 2025

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR

HYMN SING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 5, Luke 15)

Come, all ye faithful . . . **to worship, praise, and pray.**

Come, all ye unfaithful . . . **for God's love welcomes us home.**

Come into the presence of Christ . . . **for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.**

OPENING PRAYER (Joshua 5, Luke 15)

God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

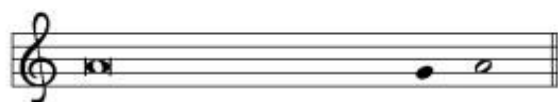
3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text : Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Text : Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

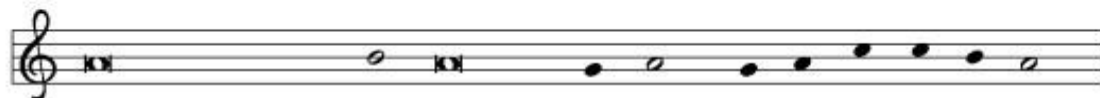
KYRIE (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MIXED CHOIR - *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You.* by Jay Althouse

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* (ACS 924)

1 As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light—
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with springtime,
shine within our world anew!

2 As the vines burst into blossom,
fragrant in the morning air,
lifting spirits with their sweetness,
luring hearts to thankful prayer—
Lenten people, here we gather,
seeking lives refreshed from sin.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
bloom within our hearts again!

3 As we journey through this season,
pilgrims through a thirsty land,
quench us with your living presence;
guide us with your loving hand.
Wand'ring people, here we gather,
called to rest along our way.
God who blesses earth with springtime,
grant us sabbath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953. Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord, where you by grace have bid us dine, these tokens of our daily work, the food of life, the bread and wine.	3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them humbly from your hand; put these your gifts to higher use: the holy meal that you command.
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Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

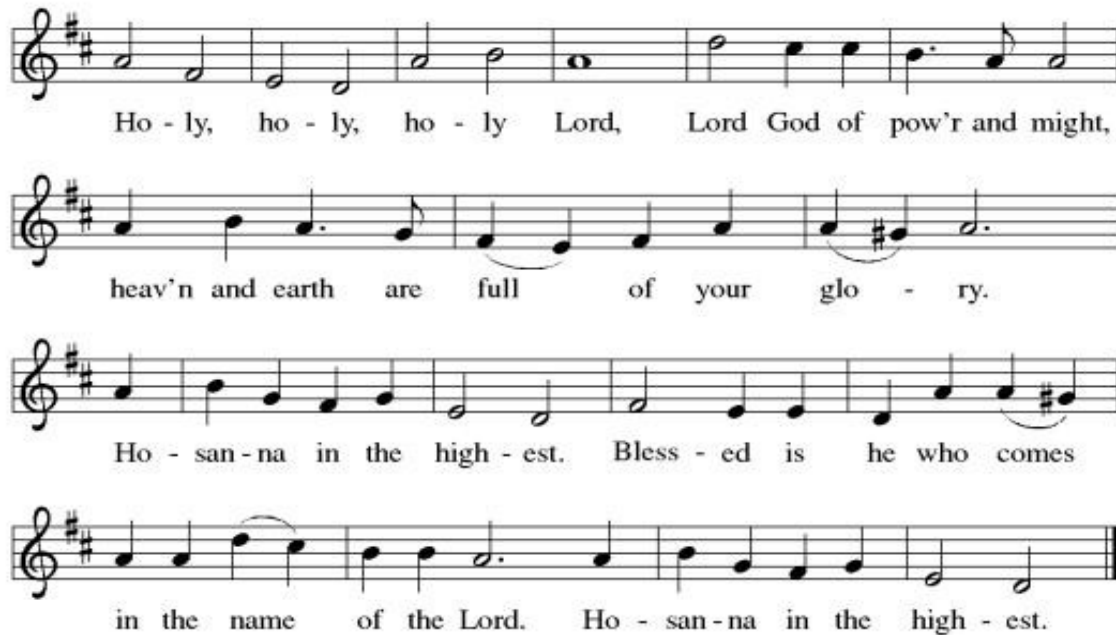
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,

feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

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 our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899. Text: Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 31– April 6, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:30 am	Communion Service
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Lorraine MacKenzie
Sexton:	Hunter Denney
Projector Operator:	Philip Vandersleen
Video Recorder:	Ty Phannenhour
Sound Operator:	Todd Phannenhour
Counters:	Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis, Wilmer Verch
Altar Care:	Don Boldt
Ushers:	Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Coffee Hour:	Dornetta Mau, Wilmer Verch

ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 23, 2025: 94

Wednesday, March 26, 2025: 36

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodzynski, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

MIRAMICHI LODGE worship service **Tuesday April 1st 10:30 am.**

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday April 2nd at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

BULLETIN DELIVERY The Social Ministry's' last bulletin delivery will be May and resume in September.

MORNING SOCIAL There will be no morning socials in April due to a busy Lenten and Easter schedule and will resume in May.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year, Saturday May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

sschellenberger@hotmail.com & suebird98@hotmail.com

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