



[  
Jesus said:] "Holy Father, keep  
them in Your name, which You  
have given Me, that they may  
be one, even as We are one."  
John 17:11b

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***Serving Christ 52 years in Goderich & 151 years in Dashwood***

A Member of  
Lutheran Church Canada



## **2024 THEME FOR BERE & ZION**

### **“WHAT’S KEEPING US HERE?”**

*“This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged- For the battle is not yours but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 20:15*

The answer to this question may seem obvious: Our faith in God, the Father, our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Because of that we want to be fed by Him through Word and Sacrament, praise Him, worship Him and thank Him. We also want to grow in our faith to live it out, spreading His message to others.

In an ever-changing world with so many challenges, let us make 2024 a year to use the different talents and abilities God has given us to make our church a welcoming place for all. Working together in love because He first loved us! Remembering and trusting: He will be with us and guide us!

### ***BEREA & ZION GUESTS***

*At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*Talk to Pastor John today.*



**A BRIEF SELF-EXAMINATION  
BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- ~ I recognize that I fall short of God's expectations of me, and I humbly confess to Him all my sins, and sincerely repent of them.
- ~ I believe and confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and He died for the forgiveness of all my sins. Jesus is the only Saviour from sin, death and the power of the devil.
- ~ I am reconciled to anyone who would have anything against me to the best of my abilities.
- ~ I believe that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ my Saviour are REALLY present in, with, and under the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and to strengthen my union with Him and fellow believers.
- ~ With God's help, I intend to amend my sinful life and live a life of service to Him through regular worship, sacrificial giving and thankful living.

Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C) congregations practice close(d) communion, (*current communicant members of this congregation and those sister congregations in altar fellowship with us*), believing that the Bible encourages unity in belief for those receiving the sacrament together.

Other guests wishing to join our confession and receive this Holy Sacrament or to inquire about our beliefs further are asked to meet with the pastor prior to communing for the first time.

For those NOT communing, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you want a blessing only by placing your arms across your chest.

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ May 12, 2024**

*As We Gather*

*The Easter season finds its culmination in the high priestly prayer of Jesus. With this we are reminded that the Lord is praying for us, for our faith, and for our unity in the faith, so that we may fulfill His purpose in making known all that He has done. It should be of great comfort to us that on the night of His betrayal, our Lord does not pray for Himself but for His disciples and those who will believe through their witness. As we confront the mission of the church to be His witnesses still, He does not relent praying for us still. United in faith and living together our common life under His Word and at His Table, we are strengthened in unity and in mission.*

**WELCOME AND SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

*An Ascension Reading* Acts 1: 1-11



In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea

and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

*Opening Hymn*            492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

*1 On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.*

*2 Since Christ returned to claim His throne,  
Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.*

*3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully  
In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.*

*Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.  
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### *Invocation*

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

### *Confession and Absolution*

P: We come before God, for whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden and confess our sins in the name of Him who died and rose again to give us forgiveness and life.

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

C: **I confess that I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayer have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are many whom I have hurt and many whom I failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I have sinned against God and against you, my brothers and sisters. There is no health in me. But for the promise of Christ, I would have no hope. Because of Christ's promise, I am made bold to ask for mercy. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, O Lord, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. AMEN**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

*Hymn of Praise*

This Is the Feast (LSB 155)

+ WORD +

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are His.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*4 Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Salutation and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: *We pray*, O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: AMEN**

*First Reading*

Acts 1:12-26

*(The Lord chooses Matthias.)*

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## *Epistle Reading*

1 John 5:9-15

*("Whoever has the Son has life.")*

If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Zion Choir:* In the Bulb There Is A Flower

## *Holy Gospel*

John 17:11b-19

*(Jesus prays that we may be one as He and the Father are one.)*

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I

am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## *Profession of Faith*

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN**

*Children's Talk (Zion)*

*Hymn of the Day*      771 Be Still, My Soul, Before the Lord

*Be still, my soul, before the Lord, For God is always near.  
Before your mind is moved to pray, God listens and will hear.*

*You need not multiply your words Nor pray with practiced art.  
Beyond all speech, God understands The hunger of your heart.*

*Wait, then, in quiet confidence, Your anxious thoughts at rest.  
God knows your needs before you ask And works for what is  
best.*

*Be still, my soul, before the Lord; On God in patience wait.  
God's love, unseen, surrounds your life; God's help will not be  
late.*

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*Sermon*

*The Offerings Are Gathered*

*(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)*

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

*Prayers of the Church*

P: Jesus, You promised not to abandon Your people but to guard, guide, and lead us. Send Your Holy Spirit to guard us in Your truth, guide us through Your Word, and lead us to fulfill the

purpose for which You send us into the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, You chose Matthias to be part of the apostles. In Baptism You chose us to belong to You and Your family under Jesus. Continue to call through Your Word others to join us as Your children and heirs of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, in Your mercy empower Your church in the time of waiting for the promise of the Spirit to be fulfilled. Equip us in our wait for the completion of all that Jesus began by His death and resurrection that we not grow weary of trusting You or betray the hope You planted in us in our Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, guide Your church that we would be united in faith and proclaim with one voice, Jesus, whose death, resurrection, and ascension have delivered us from sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, deliver us from war and violence, and bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear the voice of Your Word and act on our behalf that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives in this place. Bless those who protect us here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, in the midst of temptation, make us strong, and in the midst of trials help us endure with patience the days of trouble. Bless especially those who are suffering illness or infirmity, grief, or pain, and be with those recovering. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week.

**C: We thank you for the blessings of the past and entrust them to your future care.**

P: Father, all these things and whatever else You know that we need we pray You to grant us for the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: AMEN**

## **+ CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +**

### *Luther's Admonition to the Communicants*

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament. LW p. 197-198

### *Sanctus*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.  
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea.  
Generations praise you, with the saints and angels  
Holy, blessed through all eternity.*

### *Lord's Prayer*

**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**

*Words of Institution*     *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;*

*Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### *Peace of the Lord*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: AMEN**

### *Agnus Dei*

*O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away --  
Our faith increase.  
Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,  
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.*

*Distribution of Communion*

*Distribution Hymn* 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

*1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared*

*This feast for our salvation;*

*It is Your body and Your blood,*

*And at Your invitation*

*As weary souls, with sin oppressed,*

*We come to You for needed rest,*

*For comfort, and for pardon.*

*2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,*

*Where angel hosts are dwelling,*

*And in Your presence they behold*

*Your glory, all excelling,*

*And though Your people shall not see*

*Your glory and Your majesty*

*Till dawns the judgment morning,*

*3 Yet, Saviour, You are not confined*

*To any habitation;*

*But You are present even now*

*Here with Your congregation.*

*Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,*

*Unmoved by any daring hand*

*Or subtle craft and cunning.*

*4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,*

*Your precious Word believing*

*That Your true body and Your blood*

*Our lips are here receiving.*

*This Word remains forever true;*

*All things are possible with You,*

*For You are Lord Almighty.*

*5 Though reason cannot understand,*

*Yet faith this truth embraces:*

*Your body, Lord, is even now*

*At once in many places.*

*I leave to You how this can be;*

*Your Word alone suffices me;*

*I trust its truth unfailing.*

*6 Lord, I believe what You have said;*

*Help me when doubts assail me.*

*Remember that I am but dust,*

*And let my faith not fail me.*

*Your supper in this vale of tears*

*Refreshes me and stills my fears*

*And is my priceless treasure.*

*7 Grant that we worthily receive*

*Your supper, Lord, our Saviour,*

*And, truly grieving for our sins,*

*May prove by our behaviour*

*That we are thankful for Your grace*

*And day by day may run our race,*

*In holiness increasing.*

*8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,*

*Be praised throughout all ages!*

*Preserve it, for in ev'ry place*

*The world against it rages.*

*Grant that this sacrament may be*

*A blessèd comfort unto me*

*When living and when dying.*

*Post-Communion Prayer*

P: *Let us pray.* Lord, leave us not orphans of Your love but continue to protect and lead those whom You have redeemed. As we have come to Your Table and received Your own gifts of life and



salvation, send us as instruments of that life and salvation to the world around us. Grant us the Holy Spirit, that we may recognize Your voice in the Gospel and proclaim Your Gospel without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**C: AMEN**

### *Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.

**C: AMEN**

### *Closing Hymn*

478 The Day of Resurrection

*1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.*

*2 Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.*

*3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!*

*4 All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honour, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!*

### *Announcements and Dismissal*

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE**

**BEREA** Organist: Bill Irwin  
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball  
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker  
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

**ZION** Organist: Joanne Maguire  
Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers  
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789  
Altar Guild: B. Reschke / N. Rader  
Children's Talk: Peter Datars  
Acolyte: Jillian Simpson

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