



Then He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." Ezekiel 37:4-6

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A Member of
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2024 THEME FOR BERE A & 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! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.

Talk to Pastor John for more info.

The Day of Pentecost ~ May 19, 2024

As We Gather

We are people of the Word and people of the Spirit. The Word is where the ministry of the Spirit is at work leading and guiding the church and each of us as members of that church by Baptism and faith. The Spirit leads us to Christ so that Christ may present us to the Father, washed in His blood and wearing the white robes of His righteousness. This is not good news for the few but the message God has called us to proclaim to all the peoples. That which is most spiritual is not what is bestowed apart from the concrete or real but what is conveyed through the means of grace. Our life together in the Spirit is manifest in our life together hearing, believing, and rejoicing in His Word and Sacraments.

+ WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE +

Opening Hymn

496 Holy Spirit, Light Divine

*1 Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.*

*2 Let me see my Saviour's face, Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.*

*3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.*

*4 Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.*

*5 Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.*

Invocation and Opening Sentences John 7:37-39

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

C: AMEN

P: On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

C: **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'**"

P: Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.**

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we 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

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 139:1-12

P: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

C: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

P: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

C: Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

P: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

P: Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

C: If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

P: If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

C: even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

P: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

C: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: *We pray.* Father, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives

and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

+ WORD +

Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

(The valley of the dry bones hears the Word of the Lord.)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and

you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

Second Reading

Acts 2:1-21

(The Spirit descended upon the disciples as Jesus had promised.)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will

pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Holy Gospel

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

("When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.")

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

P: These are the Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day

500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

*1 Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind;
Come, pour Your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free;
May we Your living temples be.*

*2 O Source of uncreated light,
The bearer of God's gracious might,
Thrice-holy fount, thrice-holy fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Your sacred, healing message bring
To sanctify us as we sing.*

*3 Giver of grace, descend from high;
Your sev'nfold gifts to us supply;
Help us eternal truths receive
And practice all that we believe;
Give us Yourself that we may see
The glory of the Trinity.*

*4 Immortal honor, endless fame
Attend the_almighty Father's name;
The Savior-Son be glorified,
Who for all humankind has died;
To You, O Paraclete, we raise
Unending songs of thanks and praise.*

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: Father, on this day of Pentecost we hear how the gift of the Holy Spirit accomplished so much on that day, and turned many hearts and minds to Jesus. Send Your Holy Spirit now to continually call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the Church and keep it in the one true faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, work in the hearts, minds, and lives of the family at Berea and Zion. Work in our midst, and as we reach out to the Goderich, Dashwood, and surrounding communities. May Your Word be heard and Your will be done. Equip us to reach out and share the faith and hope we hold to in confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, our lives are filled with troubles and fears, yet You are able to comfort and support. Be present now working faith and forgiveness. Strengthen, restore, and heal marriages that have been damaged by the realities of sin. Let love be rekindled and enable Your people to speak words of forgiveness to one another daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, work among the nations of the world and it's leaders. We are praying for times of peace and security. We especially lift up the ongoing struggles and devastations in war torn areas asking that peaceful solutions can be revealed and accomplished. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Creator and provider of all, as the gardens and fields are being prepared for another growing season, let Your blessing rest on the seedtime and harvest. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit work through the Word to bring assurance of deliverance, health, and healing to all who are in need. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Bring healing, recovery, and rest as You see fit, and patience and comfort to all in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

for the blessings of the past, and entrust them to your future care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: There are so many things on our hearts and minds, so many pleas and praises and thanksgivings to lift up. Lord, You know them all even before we speak them. Into Your hands, we commend them, trusting in Your mercy because of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: AMEN

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

Benediction

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn

650 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

***1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding O'er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit, You we praise and magnify.***

*2 Holy Spirit, ever living As the Church's very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship For Your gifts and fruits
unpriced.*

P

*3 Holy Spirit, ever working Through the Church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, Setting captive sinners
free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending, You we worship and extol.*

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: Cindy Hamather
Acolyte: Dayan Brown

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