



*EVERLASTING
FATHER*

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Serving Christ 52 years in Goderich & 151 years in Dashwood

A Member of
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2024 THEME FOR BEREA & 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.

Advent 3 ~ December 15, 2024

As We Gather

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name Jesus – a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6-Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace-and will study how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Today we consider why Jesus is called "Father" even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Our Everlasting Father rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. What great love He has for us, and what comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn 900 (vs 1, 3, 5) Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

**1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.**

**3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, “Jesus shall His people save.”**

**5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.**

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: The Everlasting Father rules over all but also tenderly cares for His people. We therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C: I confess heavenly Father, that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some are known only to You. In the name of Jesus, I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may know peace.

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus, and in Him we are forgiven. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are at peace.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 2

P: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

C: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,

P: "Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us."

C: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

P: Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,

C: "As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill."

P: I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You.

C: Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.

P: You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

C: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

P: Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

C: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.

P: Blessèd are all who take refuge in Him.

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.* Show us the reality of eternity with You, God. Help us look beyond our personal problems of the day to that everlasting joy in Your presence that awaits us by Your gracious invitation.

C: AMEN

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Response for Advent

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-11

[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not

know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Catechism

The Second Article

P: What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

**1 The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.**

**2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations
come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.**

**3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**

**4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.**

**5 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.**

**6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.**

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: Wonderful Counsellor, we come to You, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth. Use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, we come to You in faith, trusting that You were, and are ,God in the flesh, our Immanuel. Strengthen all who are in distress from the worldly forces that surround us. Assure us of Your presence, strengthen our faith, and lead us to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting Father, we come to You who sent Your Son to conquer sin and death. As ruler of creation, while also serving Your people as a caring Father, grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us. Help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbours, friends, and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Jesus, we pray for all who suffer illness, for those troubled by anxiety over their current circumstances, for all those wrestling with the unknown future, and for all who call to You in their time of need. Lord, we especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Give them hope, healing, and peace as You know is right and best. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, be with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. Thank you for the past, and we look forward to the future. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: AMEN

1 *Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.*

2 *What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.*

3 *Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.*

4 *As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.*

5 *Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.*

6 *Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.*

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

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
Altar Guild: Y. Hendrick / B. Brown
Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Pastor John

*This service is based on the Advent-Christmas Series His Name Shall Be Called by Rev. Thomas Eckstein. Additional contributors: Rev. James Pierce, Mary K. Laesch, and Edwin T. Childs. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968 1-800-325-3040 • cph.org
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