



*MIGHTY
GOD*

Berea-by-the-Water Lutheran Church (LCC)

326 Gibbons St. Goderich, ON. N7A 3Z6

Office: (519) 524-2235 facebook: Berea Goderich

Zion Lutheran Church (LCC)

148 Frederick St. Dashwood, ON. N0M 1N0

Office: (519) 237-3548 facebook: Zion Dashwood

X : @ZionLccDashwood

e-mail: bnz@hay.net Web site: www.berea-zionlcc.ca

Rev. John E. Trembulak III, (Pastor cell) 519 878-0327

Administrative Assistant, Cathy Skinner (Office) 519 237-3548

Serving Christ 52 years in Goderich & 151 years in Dashwood

A Member of
Lutheran Church Canada



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.



**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.

Advent 2 ~ December 8, 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 the truth that Jesus was and is Immanuel, God among us, the mighty One in whom we may trust for all things here in time until we meet Him in eternity. Jesus is more than a mere human who was a great teacher or a popular hero. He was and is God in human flesh, and only God Himself can save us from sin, death, and the devil.

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn 900 (vs 1-2, 6) **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.**

**2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.**

**6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.**

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: Our Mighty God came into the flesh as one of us, and He knows our needs and weaknesses. We therefore confess our sins to 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 24

P: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

C: for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

P: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

P: He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

C: Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

P: Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

P: Lift up your heads, O gates!

C: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

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.* Open our eyes, heavenly Father, that we may see all that You have done. By coming in the person of Your Son and by His sacrifice for us, You have assured us that the worldly forces around us will be a thing of the past when Your Spirit ushers us into Your eternal presence.

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

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

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 5:16-18; 8:48-59

And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. . . .

The Jews answered Him, "Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death." The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to You, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

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

+ 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 332 Saviour of the Nations, Come

*1 Saviour of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*

*3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.*

*4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.*

*5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.*

*6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.*

*7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.*

*8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.*

*Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546;
(sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book,
2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien,
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Post-Communion Prayer

P: *Let us pray.* We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and

the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Benediction

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

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

1 *The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.*

2 *Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.*

3 *Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.*

4 *Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendour comes
And we shall see His face.*

5 *The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!*

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
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: Peter Datars

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