



Esther
May 24

Time Period Persian exile

Who was she?
A Jewish woman married to King Ahasuerus of Persia.

Did you know?

- When the king became displeased with his wife, Esther was chosen to be the new queen.
- Her uncle, Mordecai, was made a chief minister and overheard a plot to exterminate the Jewish people.
- The king relented when Esther intervened on her people's behalf.
- Through Esther, God preserved the Old Testament people through whom the Messiah would come.

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Serving Christ 53 years in Goderich & 152 years in Dashwood

A Member of
Lutheran Church Canada



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 Zion and those of sister congregations in altar fellowship with LC-C*), believing that the Bible encourages unity in belief for those receiving the sacrament together.

Guests wishing to join us at His table 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.

2025 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

COME AND SEE!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Come and experience the faith that ties us together and keeps us at Berea and Zion. In a world of increasing uncertainty, you and I are encouraged to live and share the basics of our faith that keeps us here. It is vital, life and eternal life changing, to know Jesus, our Saviour who lived, suffered, died, and rose, for us, to set us free from the control of evil.

Our faith is grounded in the Good News that Jesus lives... the victory is won. Living the victorious life means that Jesus is an ever-present source of peace, comfort and hope in our lives. This year let's open doors for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of our families, friends and community by warmly inviting them to... "COME AND SEE"!

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.



Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids-blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. . . . Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

John 5:2-5, 8-9

Easter 6 ~ May 25, 2025

As We Gather

It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The non-festival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. And Lydia is an example of a new Christian, ready to help. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there.

In the meantime, there's no time to lose. "Ask," Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). You see, even now He is with us. What would you like to ask Him?

DIVINE SERVICE Setting One Pg. 151

Hymn of Invocation

907 God Himself Is Present

**1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple; All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone On His throne Is our God and Saviour;
Praise His name forever!**

**2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.**

**3 Fount of ev’ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshipping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.**

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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 67

P: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

C: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

C: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

C: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear 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

Kyrie (Sing Responses)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: AMEN

This Is The Feast (Sung)

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

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.

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

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

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

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.

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 Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray.* O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

(Paul goes to Macedonia and baptizes Lydia.)

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

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

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honour, He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

(John sees the heavenly Jerusalem.)

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed---on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day---and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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

Alleluia and Verse (Sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 16:23-33

(Jesus prepares the disciples for His leaving them.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

"In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

His disciples said, "Ah, now You are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that You know all things and do not need anyone to question You; this is why we believe that You came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me. I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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

Children's Talk (Zion)

*1 In holy conversation We speak to God in prayer,
And at His invitation Our deepest thoughts we share.
We come, His will obeying, As children bringing needs;
And to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes.*

*2 These holy conversations Begin in childlike ways;
We bring our supplications And words of thanks and praise.
With care our Father listens To ev'ry thought expressed,
Then answers our petitions In ways He knows are best.*

*3 As holy conversation, In silence or by word,
In ev'ry situation Through Jesus, we are heard.
So let us pray securely, Expressing hopes and fears
With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears.*

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Sermon

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

<i>Zion</i> – Receiving of New Member - Cornelia Anna Snell

Prayer of the Church

P: Heavenly Father, You never refuse the cries of Your children. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help and protection over our families, our neighbours our friends, over strangers, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, as Paul preached the Word to the Macedonians, so You desire all people to hear the Gospel. We pray that Your Word would be spread among the nations, both here and throughout the world. Call and equip pastors, missionaries and church workers to serve Your Church in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, direct and enrich the efforts of the faithful people of Your Church. Make them eager and wise in good works, serving the ministry of the Church like faithful Lydia served the mission of Paul. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, give wisdom to our leaders and government, that they may lead with integrity and according to Your perfect will. Protect police officers, emergency personnel, disaster-relief

+ Service of the Sacrament +

workers and the members of our armed forces as they serve for the well-being of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, we cast our illnesses, struggles, burdens, and recoveries on You. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Sustain them in the midst of trial. Hear their prayers and respond in Your loving goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, You graciously provide us with the gift of Jesus' true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant us repentance and faith as we commune this day, that we may receive for our good His precious gifts. 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 prayers.

P: Into Your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Presentation of the Offerings and Offertory (Sung)

*What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the
name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the
Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the
Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.*

Preface (Sing Responses)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Saviour. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and

Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honour, and worship, with the Son 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

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Pax Domini

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

C: AMEN

Agnus Dei (Sung)

***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.***

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

628 Your Table I Approach

***1 Your table I approach; Dear Saviour, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.***

***2 Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.***

***3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.***

***4 Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.***

***5 O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.***

***6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.***

Post Communion Canticle (Sung)

Thank the Lord

*Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.*

*Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Post-Communion Collect

P: *Let us pray.* We give thanks, Lord our God, for this foretaste of the feast, which the saints before us see and that for which we hope. Enable us to serve You in thanks and praise today and every day; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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 upon you with favour and give you peace.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn 924 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

*1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;*

*Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.*

*2 Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.*

3 Saviour, when Your love shall call us

From our struggling pilgrim way,

*Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.*

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 / P. Restemayer
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter,
Randy Bowers, Jeff Miller
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Cindy Hamather

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