

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent



Introduction to the day

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P : In the name of God, ✠
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,

and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* 326

GREETING

P: The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Kyrie p. 138

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our

oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *When We Are Tested* ACS 922

When We Are Tested

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,
fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,
nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,
food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with A: addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the global health ministry organization that sends funds to Liberia for their medical needs at Curran and Phoebe hospitals who are struggling to provide good medical care along with the COVID pandemic. Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for those who have died (*especially*). Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

. The assembly is seated.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray*

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast

where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144 *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

Communion Song *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 504*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Dave Barner, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Judy Saar, Shane Snyder. and John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany..

Special thanks to today’ helpers: Lector – Theresa Levins; Assisting Ministers –Ron Brundick and Deb Heydrich; Head Usher – Jim Ely; Teller – Max Dincher; Bulletin Sponsor – Betty Allen; Children’s Church –Pam Wehler;

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers –Bill Ely Jr and Kan Dougherty; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller –Max Dincher; Bulletin Sponsor – Betty Allen; Children’s Church –Molly Hollick: Flowers— Connie Barker

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of Gram Yost by the Yost Grandchildren.

The altar flowers are given in m memory of Bethany’s birthday by the Wehlers.

MEETING – WOMEN OF THE CHURCH will meet after church on Sunday March, 13, 2022.

CAMP MOUNT LUTER brochures are now available in the church office.

The Lutheran Church Women’s Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-28

Lent Services

Note the change. We will meet in-person at 6:30 pm

Lent 1 at Garman – Tuesday, March 8, “Community”

Lent 2 at St. John – Tuesday, March 15, “The Day with Others”

Lent 3 at Garman – Tuesday, March 22, “The Day Alone”

Lent 4 at St. John – Tuesday, March 29, “Ministry”

Lent 5 at Garman – Tuesday, April 5, “Confession and Communion”

Pastors Shumway and Aucker will be covering the book: Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Life Together is a theme that I have been hearing a lot as congregations struggle to meet in-person in the midst of the pandemic. A copy of the book is available from either Pastor or in the tower at St. John. Donations for the books are appreciated.

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 10, 9:30 a.m. St. John Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m., St. John Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran, “Stations of the Cross”

Easter Sunrise, April 17, 6:00 a.m. with Fairplay Brass and breakfast, and 9:30 a.m., St. John Sanctuary.

Scholarship Opportunity - St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program

Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing™ (Thrivent Charitable) is pleased to announce available scholarships through the St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program.

About Thrivent Charitable

This scholarship program is administered by Thrivent Charitable, a national charity with a mission to serve donors, spread joy and change lives. Together with donors, Thrivent Charitable now grants more than \$58 million annually to charities serving local, national and global communities. To learn more, visit [ThriventCharitable.com](https://www.thriventcharitable.com).

About the Scholarship

The St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program was founded by the congregation of the former St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. St. Paul Lutheran Church, prior to its closing, established this special scholarship program to benefit Lutheran students who are graduating seniors of high school located in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Scholarship recipients will receive an award of approximately \$500. Candidates may reapply in successive years for scholarships available from this program.

Online Scholarship Application

Applications will be available on March 1, 2022. Complete eligibility requirements and the online application may be found at [thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships](https://www.thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships). All applications and necessary documents must be received by Thrivent Charitable no later than April 29, 2022. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Again, we would be grateful if you could spread the word about this opportunity. If you have any questions about the scholarship awards, the application process or Thrivent Charitable **please** do not hesitate to contact our team at (800) 365-4172 or TCscholarships@thrivent.com. Thank you, again, for your assistance in communicating this opportunity and for your shared commitment to our community.

Dave Zastrow, Donor Services Associate, Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, March 6, 2022

1st Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
2:00 Catechism

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

6:30 p.m. Lent Service at Garman "Community"

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 10, 2022

4:00 Pack Boxes

Friday, March 11, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Saturday, March 12, 2022

Spring your clocks FORWARD before going to bed !

Sunday, March 13, 2022

2nd Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Women of the Church Meeting

♡Love for Luke♡ fundraiser. Thanks to your support we met our goal of selling over \$10,000 in Weis Gift cards! Through your generosity we are able to donate \$717.50 to the Luke Antolick Fund.