

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the day

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

The assembly stands

GATHERING

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: O Word of God Incarnate 514

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Kyrie p. 138 (front of hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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.

L: A reading from Genesis

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

L: A reading from Romans

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation p.142

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding instead fast love.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *How Firm a Foundation* 796

THE NICENE CREED p. 104 in the front of the hymnal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We turn to you for blessing. God of the church, your ministry spans the globe. We thank you that each Sunday we can join with the global community of faith in singing your praises. Bless all Young Adults in Global Mission as they serve your church around the world, and bless the discernment of all those who seek to serve in the coming year. Hear us O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others (*especially Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *To God Be the Glory*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

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

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy p. 144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

THE LORD'S PRAYER *P 145 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

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 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: Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people,

holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage,

and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Faith of Our Fathers 812*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

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, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Cabe and Cambell McCracken and their parents Crae and Megan, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Pam Shuler, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this weeks' helpers: Lector --Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers --Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher --Bob Wehler; Teller--Brayden Wehler Bulletin Sponsor--Auckers; Children's Church--Holly Dittmar.

Next week's helpers: Lector --Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers--Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher --Jim Ely; Teller--Mike Alderidge; Bulletin Sponsor--; Children's Church - -Molly Hollick; Flowers --.

This week's flowers are to the glory of God and in memory of all the saints by Cozette Stoltzfus.

The Sanctuary Candle in February is in memory of Gram Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn.

Thank you to Tyson Welshans and Rich Buttorff for being Assisting Ministers last week.

Anyone interested in joining a texting prayer chain please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

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 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

Donations of Easter Candy is needed for the Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, Marcy 30 at 11 a.m. Please bring the candy to the office by March 24.

Calendar

Sunday, February 25, 2024 Lent 2
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church
10:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal
1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship
2:00 p.m. Catechism
Monday, February 26, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
7:00 p.m. Lent 2 Service at Garman
Sunday, March 3, 2024 Lent 3
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church
10:30 Choir rehearsal

DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Lent/Easter Dates

February 28, Lent 2 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm
March 6, Lent 3 at Grace Lutheran at 7:00 pm
March 10, Healing Service on Sunday morning, 9:30 am
March 13, Lent 4 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm
March 20, Lent 5 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm
March 24, Sunday of the Passion, Reading Passion of St. Mark, 9:30 am
volunteer readers needed. Sign-up sheet on the tower bulletin board
March 28, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm
March 29, Good Friday, St. James, 7:00 pm
March 30, Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am
March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord, 6:00 am and 9:30 am
April 7, Holy Humor Sunday, 9:30 am

