

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

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third 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 third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.*

### **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: *Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways* 772**

**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**

**Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously.  
Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only  
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.

L: A reading from Exodus

**FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17**

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your

towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

### **Psalm: Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it  
again;**

**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

L: A reading from First Corinthians

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.*

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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. John the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 2:13-22**

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Canticle of Turning 723*

**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.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

A: You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Triune God, you fill your church with the risen life of Christ. As you sent the apostles, send your evangelists and lay leaders in the Lutheran Church of Liberia, to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Guide us to accompany one another on the paths you send us.

Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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** *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

**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:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* 803

### **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 week's helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers--Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Alderidge; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy and Bill Ferguson and Agnes Cryder; Children's Church --Molly Hollick.

Next weeks' helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers --Ken Dougherty and Bill Ely; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Alderidge; Bulletin Sponsor-- Cindy and Bill Ferguson and Agnes Cryder; Children's Church--Pam Wehler; Flowers --.

This week's flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in March is in honor of Pastor and Karen Aucker by Bill and Cindy Ferguson.

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, March 30 at 11 a.m. Please bring the candy to the office by March 24.



### Calendar

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

Monday, March 4, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 6:00 p.m. Council

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:00 p.m. Lent 3 at St John

Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, March 8, 2024 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

Sunday, March 10, 2024 Lent 4 Healing Service

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church



10:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
2:00 p.m. Catechism

**Lent/Easter Dates**

March 6, Lent 3 at St John 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