

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth 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

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all 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: *On Eagle's Wing* 787

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 Jeremiah

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,**

and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: A reading from Hebrews

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Now the Green Blade Rises* 379

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.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*). Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the Earth, you have called churches of the Lutheran tradition throughout the world to come together in ministry as The Lutheran World Federation. Make this global communion effective in its work together to bring to reality a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us (*especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today*). Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting 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.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray*

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: *Lift High the Cross 660*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

We extend our sympathies to the family of John Truax who died on Friday, March 8, 2024 The funeral was on Friday, March 15, 2024.

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, Mick Miller, Clair Myers, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, 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, Rich 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 –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers--Karen Aucker and Gary Johnson; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor--Bill and Cindy Ferguson and Agnes Cryder; Children's Church --Cathy Eisner.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers --Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller–Mike Aldridge; Bulletin Sponsor--Karen Almer; Children's Church--Holly Dittmar; Flowers--Joyce Hudson.

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 17, 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 18, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Christian Ed

7:00 p.m. Youth Planning

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time Shore Diner

7:00 p.m. Lent 4 at Garman

Sunday, March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:00 p.m. Nippenose Worship

2:00 p.m. Catechism

CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30

Lent/Easter Dates

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