

Bulletin for March 21, 2021
 St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
 229 South Broad Street
 Jersey Shore, PA 17740
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Sunday, March 21, 2021
 Fifth Sunday in Lent, Service of Healing

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 as able.

SERVICE OF HEALING

*Dialog:

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

now is the day of salvation.

Return to the Lord, your God,
 who is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God forgives you all your sins,
 and heals all your infirmities.

God satisfies you with good things,
 and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

HYMN: Just as I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

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: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 51:1-12 read responsively

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

2Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

3For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

4Against 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. R

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

6Indeed, 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 pur- | er than snow.

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

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

10Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

11Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

12Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

L: A reading from Hebrews.

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.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Turn to Life"

HYMN OF THE DAY: Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW 612)

Prayers:

P: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

C: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

P: God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly.

C: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

P: God the Holy Spirit, you make us bodies and temples of your presence;

C: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

P: Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

C: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

P: Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: Grant to all who serve, your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: Mend broken relationships and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: Bless physicians, nurses and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; especially we remember and those we name before you (Petitions may be voiced)

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

C: Hear us, O Lord of life.

P: You are the Lord who does wonders;

C: You have declared your power among the nations.

P: With you, O Lord, is the well of life;

C: And in your light we see light.

P: Hear us, O Lord of Life;

C: Heal us, and make us whole.

P: Gracious God, in baptism you anointed us with the oil of salvation, and joined us to the death and resurrection of your Son. Bless all who seek your healing presence in their lives. In their suffering draw them more deeply into the mystery of your love, that following Christ in the way of the cross they may know the triumphant power of his resurrection; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Laying on of Hands/Anointing:

All who wish to receive the Laying on of Hands and Anointing may come forward at this time. This service is not just for physical healing but a prayer for spiritual and emotional healing and wholeness as well.

Due to covid I will not be offering the individual laying on of hands.

"I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love. Amen.

You are invited to meditate on Psalms 86-92

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you (especially Thomas Cranmer). With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Our Offerings

This is our response to God's grace.

This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here.

CHOIR ANTHEM – Wonder of His Love

OFFERATORY

Offertory Hymn: Create in Me (ELW 186)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.

Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.

Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

PREFACE BY PASTOR

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel,

the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land,

the words of the prophets;

and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,

who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
 we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
 And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
 we await his coming in power
 to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
 that we who share in Christ's body and blood
 may live to the praise of your glory
 and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
 of every time and every place,
 and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
 until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
 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: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

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

COMMUNION HYMNS - Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 787, 472 and 471

SONG AFTER COMMUNION Jesus, Remember Me (ELW 616)

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

After all, have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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 favor and \dagger give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

We extend our sympathies to the family of Doris Gephart who died on Monday, March 15, 2021. She was 96 years old. Her Service of Christian Burial will be on Monday, March 22, with burial at Jersey Shore Cemetery.

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Betty and Jim Allen, Luke Antolick, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Linda and Ralph Lehman, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Ben Saar, Jane Shaffer, John Truax, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal,

Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Everyone affected by the fires on the West Coast; Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lectors -Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers -Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Crucifer -Carter Stackhouse; Acolyte -Cora Stackhouse; Head Usher -Christine Barner; Teller-Bob Wehler; Bulletin sponsor - needed.

Next week's helpers: Lectors -Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers -Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer Crucifer -Hoyt Hart; Acolyte -Clayton Hart; Head Usher -Christine Barner; Teller-Bob Wehler; Bulletin sponsor - needed.

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 - 570-398-2852

Church Envelopes - Please pick up your church envelopes on the bench located by the elevator on the second level Thank you.

Sponsors sheets are available by the Office for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors. You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose money in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$17; Flowers are provided by Russell Florists (\$42) or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Molly. Payment should be made to "St. John Lutheran Church." Currently we are using wafers during this time of pandemic concerns.

Palm Sunday

The start of Holy Week, Palm Sunday will be on March 28. Holy Week comes early this year and if all is safe, we look forward to celebrating Maundy Thursday together as the body of Christ.

Giving Plus+

Download the "Giving Plus+" app from your app store for your cell phone.

Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

Youth Ministry

"Grab-a-Tab"

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. "Grab-a-Tab" program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a "Home-away-from-Home" to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.

Annual Easter Egg hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 11:00 a.m. for all children and grandchildren of St. John 12 years and under. We will begin promptly, so please arrive at 10:45 a.m. and bring a basket with you. Middle and High school youth will meet in the church office at 9:30 a.m. to help fill the eggs.

Summer Camp

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Service of Healing

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

2:00 p.m. Catechism

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Lent 5 Service posted at garmanlutheranchurch.org

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion @ Trinity Episcopal Church

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, March 26, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Easter Box distribution

Sunday, March 21, 2021 Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service