

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

Sunday, March 27, 2022

4th Sunday of Lent



### **Introduction to the day**

*The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!*

### **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: *Build a Longer Table* ACS 1062**

### Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

### **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.

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* 608

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.*

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (*especially*). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of relationships, continue to strengthen the ties that bind our hearts with our sisters and brothers in Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis of the Lutheran Church in Germany. Keep open all avenues of communication with them, so that we here in the Upper Susquehanna Synod can learn from and grow with them in our shared ministry in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. 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.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Responding in Love**

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

**Our Offering of Music**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Amazing Grace*

*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:** *What Wondrous Love Is This 666*

## 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, Mary Bower, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Jean Ann Snyder, 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 this week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers – Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Jim Ely; Teller –Max Dincher; Bulletin Sponsor – ; Children’s Church – Holly Dittmer.

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Kathy Bundick; Assisting Ministers –Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Cozette Stolzhus; Teller –Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Jim Ely; Children’s Church –Pam Wehler; Flowers – Auckers.

The altar flowers are given in memory of loved ones by Christine and Dave Barner.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Gary and Gina Johnson.

**HELP NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL !!!** Summer is approaching fast. It is St John’s year to host Bible School. We earnestly need a volunteer to HEAD VBS! Four other churches join us. We need a volunteer to organize the five churches by setting up meetings with representatives from those churches. The women of St. Johns will work, support, and assist, but we need a **VOLUNTEER TO HEAD** Vacation Bible School this summer. Questions or concerns can be directed to Pastor Aucker (570) 916-1317 or Gloria Ely (570) 873-3597. Please pray that someone is moved to accept this position so that we can have Bible School.

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 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.

Mr. Dutch Rinker, Authorized Lay Worship Leader at Zion Lutheran in Renovo has completed three years of classes and internship and has been approved by the USS Synod Candidacy Committee for ordination. His current plans are to be ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Renovo on Saturday, April 9, at 2:00 pm.

If anybody is going to Dutch’s Ordination and can provide a ride for a person from Jersey Shore, Ann Coffin, 570-809-2881, really wants to go to Dutch’s service but needs a ride. Call her if you can provide her a ride.

**Payments for Sight and Sound “DAVID”** February 6 - \$65.00; May 1 - \$65.00 and the final payment June 17 - \$60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Joyce Braucht.

Just a reminder: **The deadline for applications to Camp Mt. Luther is April 10** which is not that far away. If you are an active youth of St. John, we encourage you to attend Camp Mt. Luther. Applications are available on the bench of the Thompson street entrance. Applications **MUST** be returned to the church office by April 10.

**YOUTH EVENT !!!** Next Monday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m. Budgeting with Bob Dittmer.

Cathy Eisner / Youth are in need of **20 empty egg cartons** by April 10. Please save, gather, bring them in !!

Volunteers are needed for the Palm Sunday Passion Reading. Leave Pastor know if you can read. Needed for the reading of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ on April 10.

Serving-maid  
First Challenger  
Jesus  
Centurion

Peter  
Second Challenger  
Pilate

***THIS WEEK'S EVENTS***

Sunday, March 27, 2022

*4th Sunday of Lent*

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

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

6:30 p.m. Lent 3 at St John "Ministry"

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

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

Sunday, April 3, 2022

*5th Sunday of Lent*  
*Healing Service*

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

YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE  
ARE OFFENDED BY GOD'S  
LAVISH GENEROSITY.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

OH, I DON'T HAVE A  
PROBLEM WITH THAT.



AS LONG AS I GET  
MY FAIR SHARE.



LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

© WETZSTEIN 19-03-27