

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

February 14, 2021

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Soloist

Jill Haldeman

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WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Beautiful Savior

838

v.1: Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

v.2: Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands robed in flowers of blooming spring. Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

v.3: Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,, bright the sparkling stars on high. Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

v.4: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out,

“Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(Please join me in reading the Psalm)

PSALM: Psalm 50: 1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 9: 2-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark’s gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus’ followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God’s glory manifest in the beloved Son.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Sell

SERMON

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Gift of Love

Hal. H. Hopson (arr. Joel Raney)
RuthAnn Bartlett, flute
Judith Love, piano

APOSTLES' CREED

Together, with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains, clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of God's creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all who suffer this day especially **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny and June** that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around and among us, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, including St. Mark's member Dale Rothenberger. That their lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.
Come and be fed.

COMMUNION

Gathered together in your homes, you may now offer communion to each other saying
"This is the body of Christ given for you" when you offer the wafer/bread; and then hold up
the juice/wine, give thanks, offer the juice/wine saying "this is the blood of Christ shed for you."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

318

v.1: Alleluia song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die; alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high; in the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

v.2: Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free; alleluia joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee; here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.

v.3: Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below; alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forego; for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.

v.4: In our hymns we pray with longing. Grant us, blessed Trinity, at the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high, there to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey. This year the imposition of ashes will be offered outside in our parking lot between 12 Noon and 1PM by Pastor Bartlett. Later, Pastor Dave Penman will hold our evening worship service available for viewing on our website. This service will include very special music – the combined (but virtual) choirs of St. Mark's and New Goshenhoppen!.

The schedule and access information for the mid-week Wednesday services during Lent will be posted in next week's bulletin and in our Remarks & Reminders.

We do have some copies of The Word In Season for January/February/March 2021 available. Please call the church office if you need one mailed to you.

If we were gathering in-person, this week the flowers would have been presented in loving memory of Earl Hagenbuch by wife Bonnie and family. The bulletins would have been presented in memory of parents, Robert & Emily Ziegler, by Ed & Ferne Garis.

Thank you for joining us in worship today! May the week ahead be filled with God's blessings.

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4

Tuesday: Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Wednesday: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; Psalm 51:1-17; Joel 2:1-2,12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Thursday: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10

Friday: 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a

Saturday: Matthew 9:2-13; Psalm 32

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!