

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

February 28, 2021

Pastor David Penman

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Director of Music: Judith A. Love

Soloist

Jill Haldeman

Lay Reader

Avalyn Keller

WELCOME

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

v.1: God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save; that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

v.2: Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

v.4: Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done, and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.

v.5: All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally

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

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please join me in reading the Psalm)

PSALM: Psalm 22: 23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: Romans 4: 13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver

concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 8: 31-38

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

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Harris

SERMON

Pastor Dave

SPECIAL MUSIC

Olivet (My Faith Looks Up to Thee)

Karl Osterland
Judith Love, organ

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

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

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Bring healing and strength to **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny and June.** . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Bless those who work to serve and support families in our community. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal 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

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you † that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered

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v.1: Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as distant but compelling we hear you call our name.

v.2: And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us Lord returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

v.3: O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Now we must bid a fond farewell to you, Pastor Dave. This is your last Sunday here at St. Mark's. We have enjoyed getting to know you through your sermons, through your participation and guidance in the ministry of St. Mark's. Thank you for your help in our journey towards the next new chapter.

If we were meeting in person:

This is the week that our bulletins would be presented by Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Cressman in loving memory of Linford and Anna Cressman.

This is the week that the altar flowers would be presented by Robert & Karen Mengel in memory of Howard, Richard, and Lester Young.

The overall theme for the mid-week Lenten services is Created for Community. These services will be available only on-line and not at the churches. The schedule is as follows:

- March 3: In Community with All the Saints led by St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown**
March 10: In Community with Our Neighbor led by Palm Schwenkfelder Church, Palm
March 17: In Community with Those On the Margins led by Friedens UCC, Sumneytown
March 24: In Community with Christ led by New Goshenhoppen Church, East Greenville

All of these on-line services are scheduled for 7:30 PM. Please note that there is a time limit for the Zoom link. The first person logging in starts the time clock. So please wait until it is close to 7:30 PM to connect. Thanks!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83316940549?pwd=dG9ieVA3WEVMZjIYTIV2ZFFhMXcyQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 1694 0549

Passcode: 411944

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 833 1694 0549

Passcode: 411944

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kpsY6Y6Uy>

The zoom link is also listed on the [February 23rd email](#) for Remarks & Reminders.

The Adult Bible Study Group meets every Sunday at 9AM via Zoom. They are beginning a new book entitled Call in the New Testament. If you like to listen, to learn, to share this is the place for you! Just contact Deb at debra.reed588@comcast.net She will send you the Zoom link to use.

Church Council will be meeting tomorrow Monday, March 1st, at 7PM in the multi-purpose room. CDC guidelines will be followed. (the Feb. 22nd meeting was cancelled due to snow)

Tulips for Easter – You can sponsor a tulip plant (\$8 each). These will be brought to some of our church members to brighten up their Easter celebration. Please call the church office with any questions 215-679-9015.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Please be sure to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st. After that date, any 2020 undirected Choice Dollars will expire.

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21: 1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12

Tuesday: Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19; Genesis 22:1-19

Wednesday: Jeremiah 30: 12-22; John 12: 36-43

Thursday: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2: 4-10

Friday: Exodus 19: 9b-15; Acts 7: 30-40

Saturday: Exodus 19: 16-25; Mark 9:2-8

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