

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

March 14, 2021

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Sally Bauman

Lay Reader

Becky Folk

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 down; 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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21: 4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please join in the reading of the Psalm)

PSALM: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2: 1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 3: 14-21

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

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Bartlett

SERMON

Pastor Russ

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rockingham Old (God Loved the World)

arr. Robert Buckley Farlee
Judith Love, organ

APOSTLE'S 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.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn especially **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Charlie, Marie, David, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Steve, Barbara, Pat, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara, Lenny, June and Mary Jane.** Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children. Bless our Outreach and Caring Ministries as they work in service to others. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 forever. 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.

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

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v.1: Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe. Christ, yourself for me once
giving to the darkest depths of woe: through your suffering, death and merit life eternal, I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.

v.2: You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently, even death by crucifixion, fully to
atone for me; for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented. Thousand,
thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.

v.3: Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore, for the anguish in the
garden, I will thank you evermore; thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.

DISMISSAL

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

If we were gathering in person:

This is the week the bulletins would have been presented in loving memory of Oleda Nester by son & wife William and Carole Nester

The altar flowers would have been presented in honor of family and friends by Al & Sharon Schultz.

The Adult Bible Study Group meets every Sunday at 9AM via Zoom. They are beginning a new book and welcome all who would like to join. Please contact Deb at debra.reed588@comcast.net She will send you the Zoom link to use.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: March 31st is the deadline for directing your choice dollars. After that, any 2020 undirected choice dollars will expire.

CALENDAR THIS WEEK:

Sunday, March 7th: 8:30 AM CAT Class via Zoom
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom
 10-11 AM CAT class snack bag drop off

Remarks & Reminders

This is a weekly newsletter that is sent out via email. If you are not receiving this, please contact the church office to update your email address.

Mid-week service information:

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

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>

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Exodus 15: 22-27; Psalm 107:1-16; Hebrews 3: 1-6

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 10: 6-13; Numbers 20: 1-13

Wednesday: Isaiah 60: 15-22; John 8: 12-20

Thursday: Psalm 51: 1-12; Isaiah 30: 15-18; Hebrews 4: 1-13

Friday: Matthew 1: 16,18-21,24a; Psalm 89: 1-29; 2 Samuel 7:4,8-16; Romans 4:13-18

Saturday: John 12: 1-11; Psalm 51: 1-12; Habakkuk 3:2-13

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