

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

March 21, 2021

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Director of Music: Judith A. Love

Soloist

Rachel Moyer

Lay Reader

Bonnie Gillespie

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.

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim til all the world adore his sacred name.

v.1: Come Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ the Son of God **(R)**

v.2: All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **(R)**

v.3: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **(R)**

v.4: So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! **(R)**

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, 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.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please join in the reading of the Psalm)

PSALM: Psalm 51: 1-12

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

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

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

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

⁶**Indeed, 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 purer than snow.

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

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

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5: 5-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 12: 20-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Maribeth Reigner

SERMON

Pastor Russ

SPECIAL MUSIC

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Johnson
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 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.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. 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

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

v.1: Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still. Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will.

v.2: Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere; let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

v.3: Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep; and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

v.4: Make me to walk in your commands, tis a delightful road; nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

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 honor of Abigail Thomas' 7th birthday (3/26) by mother, Heather Thomas. Happy Birthday, Abby!

The altar flowers would have been presented in memory of loved ones by William & Rebecca Folk and family. .

CALENDAR NOTES:

Wednesday, March 24th 7:30 PM Lenten service via Zoom (information below)

Sunday, March 28th 8:30 AM CAT Class via Zoom
9:00 AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom
10:15 AM Worship Service in the courtyard

Weather permitting, we will be holding Palm Sunday worship service in the courtyard! We will also have a parking lot option. We will broadcast the service through your car radio via an FM transmitter! One way or another, we will be back (sort of) "in" church. Masks are required. Safety guidelines followed. Please bring your own chair! **SEE** you next week!

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.

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.

Be Sure To Check Out:

The Town & Country came in to do an article about Pastor Russ. It is in this week's - March 18th – edition. It's a full page article! Please be sure to pick up a copy.



Mid-week service information:

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 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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+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/83316940549>

Preparing for next week:

Monday: Psalm 119: 9-16; Isaiah 43: 8-13; 2 Corinthians 3: 4-11

Tuesday: Acts 2: 14-24; Isaiah 44: 1-8

Wednesday: Haggai 2: 1-9, 20-23; John 12: 34-50

Thursday: Luke 1: 26-38; Psalm 45; Isaiah 7: 10-14; Hebrews 10: 4-10

Friday: Phillippians 2: 12-18; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Jeremiah 33: 1-9

Saturday: Jeremiah 33: 10-16; Mark 10: 32-34, 46-52

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SPRING IS HERE!

