

ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PENNSBURG, PA

March 7, 2021

Pastor K. Russell Crouthamel

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Sally Bauman

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WELCOME PASTOR RUSS!

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: In the cross of Christ I glory, towering over the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

v.2: When the woes of life overtake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

v.3: When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

v.4: Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

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

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: Exodus 20: 1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your

towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please join in the reading of the Psalm)

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where
God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 2: 13-22

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

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in

three days I will raise it up.”²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body.²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Angela and Sophia Berger

SERMON

Pastor Russ

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Ithamar Conkey
Bill Folk, trumpet

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.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the wisdom of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give courage and strength to all who are suffering (*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*). Protect and defend the vulnerable. Bring redemption to those who have caused harm. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us this day into a new relationship as pastor and people. Lord, we pray that you might give clarity and purpose to this congregation and our new pastor, that together we might proclaim Christ crucified in word and deed. Bless Pastor Russ and his family this day and always; and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the saints whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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, now 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

Canticle of the Turning

723

v.1: My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest, Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

v.2: Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

v.3: From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Refrain.

v.4: Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. Refrain.

DISMISSAL

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

Thank you for joining our service today. This is a special day – it marks the beginning of our journey in faith with Pastor Russ here at St. Mark's. Welcome Pastor Russ!

If we were gathering in person:

This is the week the bulletins would have been presented in honor of the birthday of son Forest by parents Tiny & Reenie Edelman, brother Leon & wife Kaylyn, and sister Kira.

This week altar flowers would have been presented in memory of loved ones by Linda & Gil Ebright.

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

- Wednesday, March 10th: Outreach Committee - 6:30PM, Multi-purpose room

- Thursday, March 11th: Worship Committee – 6PM, Multi-purpose room

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 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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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+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: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday: Hebrews 9:23-28; 2 Corinthians 29:1-11, 16-19

Wednesday: Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19

Thursday: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday: Ephesians 1:7-14; Daniel 12:5-13

Saturday: Numbers 20:22-29; John 3:1-13

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