

# The 1st Sunday of Lent

February 18th, 2024 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +  
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

# ~WELCOME~

*(\*) Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

\*Opening Litany (RCL Prayers)

- P: God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
- C: Guide us through this season that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing.**
- P: Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
- C: Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer.**
- P: God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people.
- C: In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may accept the life of your kingdom. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #613

“Thy Holy Wings”

\*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. ~ Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood You saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation You protected Your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May Your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The First Reading ~ Genesis 9: 8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L: Word of God, word of life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**  
<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.  
<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**  
<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God  
of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.  
<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**  
<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
goodness, O LORD.  
<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**  
<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.  
<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## The Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 3: 18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: Word of God, word of life.      C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### \*The Holy Gospel ~ Mark 1: 9-15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains Him when He is tested by Satan so that He might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of St. Mark.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Sermon

\*Hymn #517

"Lord Keep Us Steadfast ..."

\*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

**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.**

**\*Prayer of the Church**

*After each prayer petition, please respond:*

**P:** Hear us, O God ...      **C:** Your mercy is great

Anthem

“A Lenten Walk”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

**+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +**

This morning, the sacrament will be received by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice and will hand it to each communicant so that they may receive it between thumb and forefinger and place it in their own mouth. Children and youth not yet instructed in the meaning of the sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and a cracker. †

**Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction**

**P:** Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

Almighty God + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn #624**

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

**\*The Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your blessings and your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*thank  
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector.

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our counter

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

Interested in volunteering to help with our **annual candy making** project? Please see or speak with Nancy Filler (610-282-1386) for more details about meeting times.

**Altar flower sponsors** are needed for the 2024 church year. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex hallway bulletin board and clearly mark your name and dedication. Thank you!

**To be remembered in prayer ...** Irlanda Berti, Bill Bugger, Leona Callahan, Levi Cressman, Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Harvey and Janet Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, and the people of Israel and Ukraine.



## + Mid-Week Lenten Services +

**Wed., February 21<sup>st</sup> ~ First UCC**

(510 Northampton St., Hellertown)

**Wed., February 28<sup>th</sup> ~ New Jerusalem Lutheran**

(3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem)

**Wed., March 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Christ Lutheran**

(69 Main St., Hellertown)

**Wed., March 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Lower Saucon UCC**

(1375 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Hellertown)

**Wed., March 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Friedens Lutheran**

**Soup suppers begin at 6pm and the worship services at 7pm. Come for one, several, or all!**



**Soup makers are needed** for when it is Friedens' turn to host the Lenten meal and service on Wednesday, March 20th.

Please see or speak with Nancy Filler if you are able to help in this way.

Thank you!