

# The 2nd Sunday of Lent

February 25th, 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



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

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

\*Opening Confession for Lent

P: Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin, we confess before You that we have sinned.

**C: We have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us.**

P: O Lord, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us. We do not love what You love. We do not embrace what You embrace.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do.**

P: Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Continue working in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn #514      "O Word of God Incarnate"

\*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. ~ 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.**

### The 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.*

<sup>1</sup>When 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. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I 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."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I 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."

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

Psalm 22 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

<sup>23</sup>You 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.

<sup>24</sup>**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.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; let those who seek  
the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## The 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.*

<sup>13</sup>The 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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as 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. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

<sup>19</sup>Abraham 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. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong

in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8: 31-38

*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.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 8th chapter of St. Mark.

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

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But 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.” <sup>34</sup>He 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. <sup>35</sup>For 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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it prof-

fit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those 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.”

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

The Sermon

\*Hymn #338 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

\*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 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

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 #802

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

\*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*thank  
you*

... to Kay Sheerer for serving as our lector.

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our usher & counter

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

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 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!