

The 3rd Sunday of Lent

March 3rd, 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 #324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*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, 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.**

The 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.

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

Psalm 19 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

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 ac-
ceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

The 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 preach-

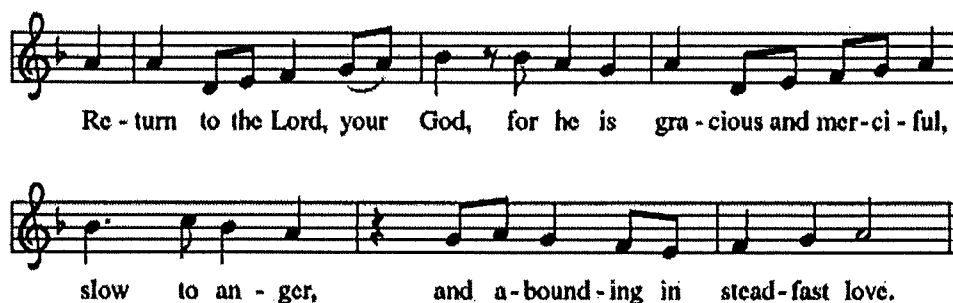
ing is Christ crucified.

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 the 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.

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 ~ John 2: 13-22

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 2nd chapter of St. John.

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

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.

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*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

"Jesus is a Rock"

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 #856

“How Great Thou Art”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God.

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*thank
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz 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., March 6th ~ Christ Lutheran

(69 Main St., Hellertown)

Wed., March 13th ~ Lower Saucon UCC

(1375 3rd Ave., Hellertown)

Wed., March 20th ~ Friedens Lutheran

Soup suppers begin at 6pm and the worship services at 7pm. You are most welcome to attend.



***Soup makers are needed** for when it is Friedens' turn to host the Lenten meal and service on Wednesday, March 20th. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help in this way. Thank you!

**Easter lily order forms
are available in the narthex.
Please place orders by 3/10!**



Turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed this Saturday, March 9th!