



**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 21, 2021**

*The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.*

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

**Hymn**      “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”                      ELW 772

- 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!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word  
and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
but keep my conscience clear.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands,  
'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my God.

**The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**Let us pray:**

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.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.**

**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.*

<sup>5</sup>Christ 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”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In 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. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having 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 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.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

**Homily** The Rev. Kurt Strause

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

#### **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

**Hymn** "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW 379

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.
  
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

**DISMISSAL**

Take up your cross. Follow the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** "Glory Be to Jesus" Robert Lau

**Sanctuary Candle** is presented in memory of my husband Matt, my daughter Linda Ammons and daughter-in-law Elaine by Audrey Lewandowski.



Michael A. Crowther  
Clarice Haws  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Ella Shirk  
Alverta Showalter  
Clyde Showalter  
Mary Ann Weitzel  
Mary Jane Miller  
Josie Reitz

Katie Houck  
 Sue Kittler  
 Ralph Good  
 Susan Levan  
 Nancy Kulp  
 Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
 Mary Jane Miller  
 Janice Moyer Kelly  
 Dorothy Good

Josie Reitz

Sharon Fremont – friend of Sue Kreitz  
 Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz  
 Hunter Leisey  
 Elmo Lorah  
 Jean Wolf  
 Ashton Faust  
 Clair Sweigart  
 Earl Myers  
 Joan Long



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

**Following Jesus: An Online Lenten Pilgrimage**

Lent provides Christians and opportunity to deepen their faith by focusing on Jesus’ own journey to the cross. By following our Lord to his Passion, Death, and Resurrection we are drawn into the story of God’s confrontation with the forces of sin and evil and the victory God wins over death.

You are invited to participate in a Lenten pilgrimage with Jesus through a weekly gathering on Zoom. Each week we will follow Jesus to the cross by reading the stories in scripture. Our journey will be enhanced by depictions in art, music, and literature. The sessions are held each week on Tuesdays and began on February 23 and will continue for five weeks through March 23. Each session begins at 7:00 p.m. and lasts about an hour. All are welcome to participate but we are asking that you register. You may do so by following the link on our church’s website.

Made for Community

The Cocalico Lutheran Cluster of Churches will sponsor a VIRTUAL Lenten series. We will post the videos weekly on our church website. Please take note of the schedule below.

Wednesday, March 24	Muddy Creek, Denver	“In Community with Christ”
Wednesday, March 31	Bergstrasse, East Ephrata	“In Community in the Face of Brokenness”

Orders are being taken for Easter Lilies. Deadline and price still unknown. Please get the following information to the church office or to Jodi Showalter (717)413-7149.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lily 3-4 blooms \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## Holy Week

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

### Schedule of Holy Week Worship Services



#### **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion: March 28 – 8:30 a.m.**

This worship service commemorates the beginning of Holy Week as Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem to the shouts of the crowd. The theme of triumph quickly gives way to the reading of the Passion, this year from the Gospel of Mark. Jesus' suffering is real as he bears the sins of the world.

#### **Maundy Thursday: April 1 – 7:30 p.m.**

Jesus gathers his closest disciples for a final meal before his betrayal and death. During this meal he institutes the Lord's Supper as well as giving them an example of servanthood as he washes their feet.



#### **Good Friday: April 2 – 8:00 p.m.**

A somber and dramatic service in which we celebrate the Triumph of the Cross. The Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus facing all the powers of darkness and evil as he willingly accepts the will of his Father for the sake of the whole world.

#### **Easter Day, The Resurrection of Our Lord: April 4 – 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.**

Christ is Risen! Jesus triumphs over the powers of sin and death as he is raised from the dead. The whole church resounds with the glorious "Alleluias" signaling the end of our captivity.

Two essentially identical services are being offered on Easter morning to accommodate extra worshippers.



***Please note there will be no Holy Week breakfasts this year, nor will there be an Easter morning breakfast. Please let the church office know which Easter service your family will attend.***

**TAKE NOTE** - Please contact Joyce Stoner 717-336-7077 if you would like to sponsor a candle. Many coming dates are open.