



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 13, 2022

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Hymn Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ELW 321

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
 walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
 led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
 far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

- 3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
 you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
 and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
 glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
 so into life and glory shall we wake.

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:

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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: GENESIS 15:1-12; 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you

give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according To Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

Sermon The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

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.**

Benediction and Blessing

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,

motherly, majestic, and mighty,

✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen

Hymn

O, Christ, Your Heart Compassionate

ELW 722

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.
- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,
yet marks the sparrow's fall,
whose arms stretched wide upon a cross
embrace and bear us all:
come, make your church a servant church
that walks your servant ways,
whose deeds of love rise up to you,
a sacrifice of praise!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Hal H. Hopson

Altar Flowers given in memory of her brother by Linda and Howard Ream.

Sanctuary Candle given in memory of Ray Long by wife Joan Long.

NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Many Sundays available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church.

www.swamplutheran.org. Church office is open from 8:30AM-12PM daily.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp's Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write "Action Fund" in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Michael A. Crowther
 Margaret Elser
 Clyde Showalter
 Mary Ann Weitzel
 Ella Shirk
 Leona Showalter

Alverta Showalter
 Clarice Haws
 Betty Hornberger
 Charles Moyer
 Josie Reitz

Katie Houck
 Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
 Ed Miller
 Susan Levan
 Nancy Kulp
 Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
 Clair Sweigart
 Janice Moyer Kelly
 Josie Reitz
 Erika Eberly (friend of Jennifer Taylor)
 Charles Hoppman
 David Metzger (friend of Sue Kreitz)
 Cindy Hornberger Stahl

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)
 Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)
 Sue Schultz
 Hunter Leisey
 Jean Wolf
 Randy Gockley
 John Frantz
 Joan Long
 Margaret Elser
 Chester Peachey



Bill Sweigart (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)

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.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Sue Schultz, Janice Kelly, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Margaret Elser, Charles Hoppman, Randy Gockley.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2022.

FOOD BANK current needs are ketchup, mustard, snacks and canned tuna. Our ministry to the community continues in strength. Thank you for your faithfulness.

CARD SHOWER – Josie Reitz celebrated her 93rd birthday on March 10. Josie loves her church and is thrilled when she is remembered. Let’s shower her with cards of thanksgiving and celebration for God’s gift of long life. Josie Reitz, Garden at Stevens, Rm 209D, 400 Lancaster Avenue, Stevens, PA 17578



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. Time to clean out your closets! The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons,



water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com

GIFT CARDS FOR EASTER -Gift cards are available for purchase and the list of available gift cards is in the Narthex on the table. Deadline for ordering is April 3, 2022 and the cards will be delivered in time for Easter. If there is a specific place that you are interested in and do not find on the list please speak to Missy Ragan to check availability. (717) 314-5668



Orders are being taken for Easter Lilies. Price is 10.50 per lily and deadline for ordering is March 27. Please give 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 _____

Pick Six Lenten Offering

This year, Swamp Lutheran will begin a new giving opportunity for Lent: Pick Six. For the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging you to give a special, weekly offering in addition to your regular giving. The benevolence giving options listed below are opportunities to give to ministries benefitting those in need—sharing God’s love outside the walls of Swamp.

Envelopes with these options listed on them are available on the table in the narthex. Please grab a pack of six envelopes (one for each week of Lent). Call the office if you need them mailed to you.



Swamp Action Fund: Help those in dire need of support for rent, bill payment, etc.



Community Meal: Contributions to this ministry support the purchase of food and supplies for the monthly community meal Swamp supports in the community.



Confirmation Camp: Help subsidize the cost of Confirmation Camp held at Camp Kirchenwald in June.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.



**EPHRATA AREA
SOCIAL
SERVICES**
OF PHILADELPHIA

Contributions help provide services to people in our community in the areas of food, clothing, fuel, transportation, and meals on wheels.



Swamp Food Pantry: Contributions support Swamp’s ministry of food to those challenged by food insecurity.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Contributions to this ministry support the work to eradicate hunger in the United States and throughout the world financially.



Jan's
CIRCLE of
FRIENDS

Jan's Circle of Friends: Contributions to this organization fund efforts to assist children coping with domestic violence and parental loss.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
 Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Help fund camperships for needy campers.



Support activities and special projects to enrich the lives of senior residents.

This Week in the Parish (March 14– March 20)

Monday	6:00PM 7:30PM	PACK 95 Arcade Museum Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday	7:00PM	Lenten Series
Thursday	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED	
Sunday	8:00AM 9:00AM 10:15AM	Worship Worship Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 26	5:00PM	Pack 95 Blue & Gold Banquet
Sunday, March 27	5:00PM-8:00PM	SL Youth First Responder Basket Activity
Friday, April 8	6:00PM-9:00AM	SLY Flashlight Egg Hunt Lock-in (overnight)

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

<i>Monday, March 14</i>	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
<i>Tuesday, March 15</i>	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
<i>Wednesday, March 16</i>	Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31
<i>Thursday, March 17</i>	Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11
<i>Friday, March 18</i>	Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6
<i>Saturday, March 19</i>	Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES 2022 – RETURNING TO JOY

7PM

- MARCH 16 THE TREES SHALL CLAP THEIR HANDS ISAIAH 55:1-3,6-13
The Rev. Tim Craven at Faith United Lutheran Church
357 Walnut St., Denver
- MARCH 23 I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING ISAIAH 43:1-7, 14-21
The Rev. Jim Goodyear at Muddy Creek Lutheran Church
11 S. Muddy Creek Rd., Denver
- MARCH 30 EVERLASTING JOY SHALL BE UPON THEIR HEARTS ISAIAH 51:4-11
The Rev. Sandy Gideon at Mellingers Lutheran Church
80 Gockley Rd., Stevens
- APRIL 6 GOD HAS THE LAST WORD REVELATION 21:1-7
The Rev. Scott Brubaker at St. John Center Lutheran Church
599 Reading Rd., East Earl
- MAY 26 (ASCENSION) RETURNING WITH JOY LUKE 24:44-53
The Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry at Swamp Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd, Reinholds

Swamp Evangelical Church

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM and 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM

GOSPEL MESSAGE
March 13, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

The Hard Way

In Luke's gospel, Jesus sets a course toward Jerusalem, even though he knows what he will face there. His gospel of forgiveness and inclusion will prove intolerable to the powers of the empire, eventually resulting in his execution. Still, when he is warned, he responds, "I must be on my way" (Luke 13:33), and laments for the city that will kill him. Jesus is not naive about violence and conflict in the world. He heads straight for it anyway, knowing what he is called to do.

We are often faced with choices in which doing the right thing means some inconvenience or hardship. Spiritual disciplines during Lent offer practice for rising to these challenges, such as giving up single-use plastics in order to limit our impact on the planet. On a deeper level, moving toward racial justice as a country asks people to learn more about the continuing impact of hundreds of years of slavery and segregation, and to make choices and implement policies that address this continuing legacy.

Where do we get the resolve to do the right thing—even when it means taking the hard way?

Perhaps doing the right thing even when it's hard begins as it did for Jesus in his prayer of lament for Jerusalem: with honesty and an openly broken heart. As a cry of sadness or anger, lament roots us in the communal bonds of shared grief and turns us toward the deeper power and justice of God. Lament is an ancient and enduring form of prayer, well represented in the prayer book of the Hebrew Bible, the Psalms. It is a raw and honest expression of grief and rage without excuses, without explanations. God hears, God sees. God is with us in the sorrow, and in the resolve to be more compassionate and just.