

4th Sunday in Lent

March 30th, 2025 ~ 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** (written by Roddy Hamilton)

P: Let this be the welcoming place, the place of return.

C: **And let it be built by a love that bends towards those who return here.**

P: For it is a love that has been waiting like a candle in the window, ever lighting the way back and never willing to let go of the hope that each child will return home.

C: **Let it be the place where the only appropriate response to love that has come to the end of its longing is to kill the fatted calf, feast and celebrate, send up balloons, and prepare the party ... for that which has been lost has returned to be among us once more!**

***Opening Hymn #807** “Come thou Fount of ...”

***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. ~ God of compassion, You welcome the wayward, and You embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism, clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 ~ Joshua 5: 9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Piano Solo

Jonah Moser

"Lord, I Lift Your name on High"

Psalm 32 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must
be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Reading ~ 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The Holy Gospel according to the 15th chapter of St. Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His

father came out and began to plead with his son.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn “God’s Great Love is So Amazing”

*** (see back page — Tune: What a Friend We Have in 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:

God, in Your mercy ... **Receive our prayer.**

Anthem “Just As I Am”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

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

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction,; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Compassionate God, You have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

P: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn #328**

“Restore in Us, O God”

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace, remaining grateful for gracious welcomes and second chances.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

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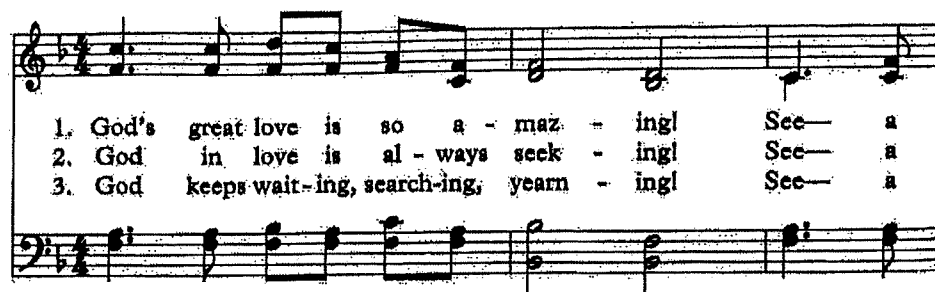
*thank
you*

... to Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

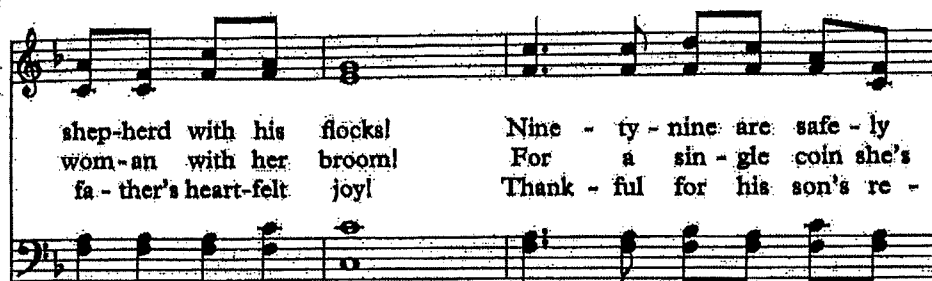
... to Maureen/Ward Wagner for serving as our counters

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

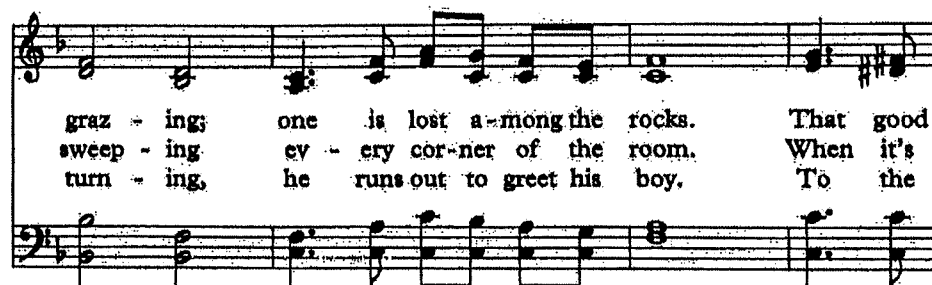
God's Great Love Is So Amazing!



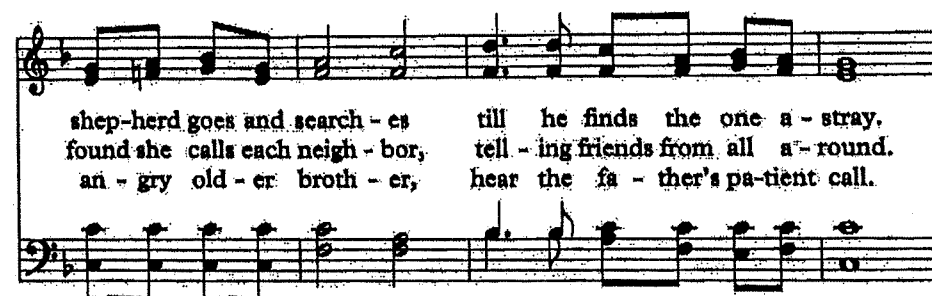
1. God's great love is so a - maz - ing! See— a
 2. God in love is al - ways seek - ing! See— a
 3. God keeps wait - ing, search - ing, yearn - ing! See— a



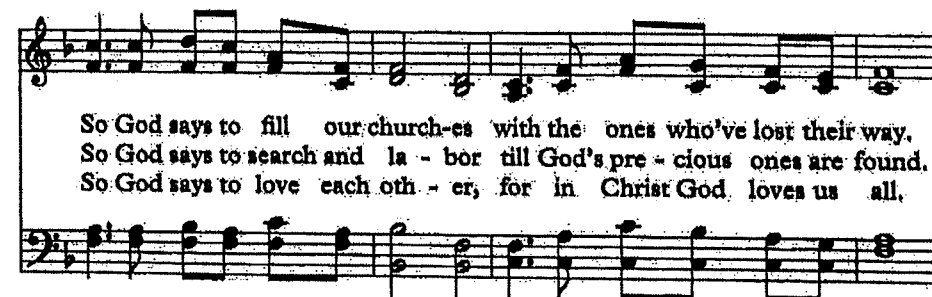
shep-herd with his flocks! Nine - ty - nine are safe - ly
 wom-an with her broom! For a sin - gle coin she's
 fa - ther's heart-felt joy! Thank - ful for his son's re -



graz - ing; one is lost a-mong the rocks. That good
 sweep - ing ev - ery cor-ner of the room. When it's
 turn - ing, he runs out to greet his boy. To the



shep-herd goes and search - es till he finds the one a - stray.
 found she calls each neigh - bor, tell - ing friends from all a - round.
 an - gry old - er broth - er, hear the fa - ther's pa-tient call.



So God says to fill our church-es with the ones who've lost their way.
 So God says to search and la - bor till God's pre - cious ones are found.
 So God says to love each oth - er, for in Christ God loves us all.

Text written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette