

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 16th, 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 the Rev. Richard J. Fairchild)

P: Lord God, You ask us to come to You and You seek us out like a hen seeks out her chicks, offering the protection and the safety of your strong wings.

C: Help us, O God, to stop each day and to listen for your call; to pause and allow You to overtake us; to wait and to have your warmth and your wisdom overwhelm us.

P: Grant us, O Lord, a personal image of your presence which will sustain us as we seek to love You with all our heart and soul, mind, and strength and as we seek to love one another as Jesus loves us.

C: We pause not just to have our cups filled by your love, but on behalf of others as well. We ask that You give them new hearts that are filled with goodness and faith. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #834

“Immortal, Invisible ...”

*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 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

P: 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.**

The 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.

¹ After 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." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But 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."

⁵ The Lord 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." ⁶ And Abram believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He 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." ¹⁰ Abram 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. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On 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."

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

Psalm 27 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in
the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message — “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away — you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God
of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe — that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

The 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.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even

with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He 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.

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

***The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)**



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 ~ Luke 13: 31-35**

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

The Holy Gospel according to the 13th chapter of St. Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He 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. ³³ Yet 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.'

³⁴ Jerusalem, 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! ³⁵ See, 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.**

The Sermon

*Hymn #613

“Thy Holy Wings”

*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

“A Lenten Prayer”

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 #705

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Alex Stauffer for serving as our lector

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our usher

... to Dan and Jill Kozo for serving as our counters

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





To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Karan Eddy, Kevin Filler, Hope Geary, Helen Kerositz, Jeanne Logan, Kathleen Tuomela May, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, especially Ukraine and Israel, and others whom we name before God.



If you have interest in helping with our Easter egg candy making project, please see or speak with Nancy Filler at 610-282-1386. Thank you!

Orders are now being taken for our Easter candy. The cost is \$1.75/per egg. Flavors include milk & dark peanut butter, dark coconut cream, and dark shredded coconut.

Order forms are in the narthex.



Our mid-week Lenten soup suppers and worship services continue on Wednesday, March 19th at Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main St. in Hellertown.

The soup supper begins at 6pm followed by the worship service at 7pm. All are most welcome to attend!