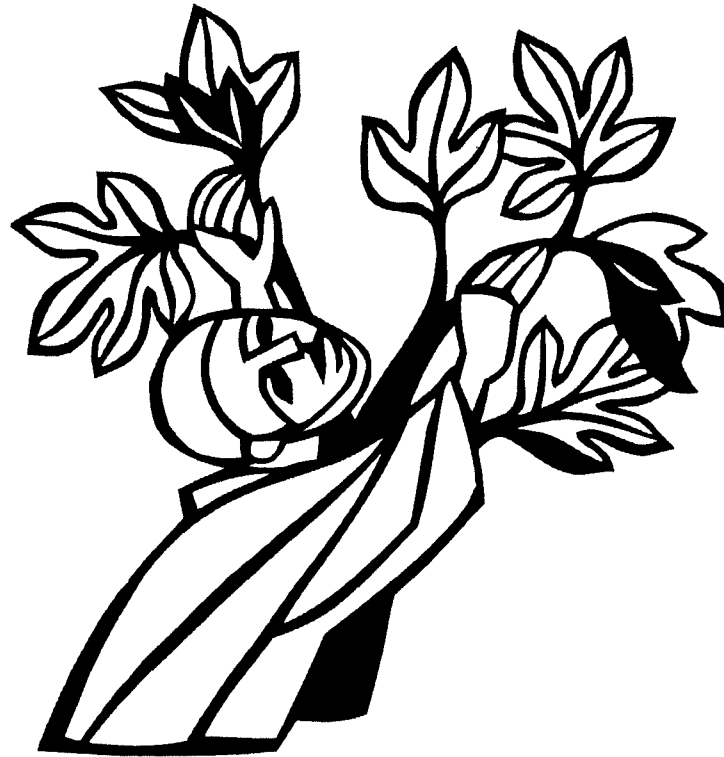


3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23rd, 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 Steven Fearing)

- P: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely,
C: **but God goes with us through the wild wilderness.**
P: Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations.
C: **Lent is a time to ponder God's providence and persistence.**
P: Together, we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us;
C: **the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.**
P: In this season of penitence and pondering, let us gather before God.
C: **We come, as a family, to wait for the Lord with strength and courage. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn #445**

“Wash, O God, Your ...”

***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. ~ Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your

P: Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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 ~ Isaiah 55: 1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Psalm 63 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

The Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 13: 1-9**

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ At that very time, there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #508

“As Rain from the Clouds”

*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

“My Savior and My God”

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 #623

“Rock of Ages”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Kay Sheerer for serving as our lector

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our usher

... to Alicia B. and Greg L. for serving as our counters

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



To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Denise, 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.





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 26th at Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 3rd Ave. in Hellertown.

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

