

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1st, 2026 ~ 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 (by Eileen K. Hamm & Dori Zerbe Kornelson)

P: Blow, wind of God, blow away the tight rules that hold me back from trusting, risking, loving.

C: **Blow away my sin that stands in the way of encountering my neighbors.**

P: Ready me for birth; prepare me for risk.

C: **Equip me with courage and vision for the new thing that waits around the corner.**

P: We cannot choose the stories we have inherited,

C: **But we can choose the stories that we become.**

*Opening Hymn #335 "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

*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. ~ O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through

P: 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 12: 1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose — that through them, all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

The Second Reading ~ Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham, we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

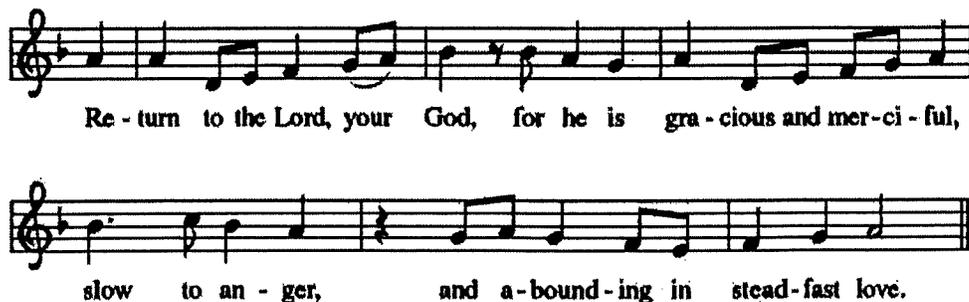
¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 ~ John 3: 1-17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

Sermon

*Hymn #323

“God Loved the World”

*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.

*The Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Hear us, O God ... **Your mercy is great.**

Anthem

“Psalm 121”

Blessing of the Elements



The Lord’s Prayer

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

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 Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn #803 "When I Survey the Wondrous ..."**

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

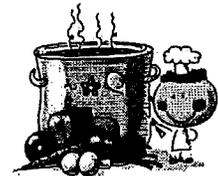
... to for serving as our lector

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



Join us for our mid-week Lenten soup supper (6pm) and worship (7pm) this Wednesday, March 4th, which we, Friedens congregation, will be hosting. All are most welcome to attend!

Soup makers are needed for this Wednesday evening. Please use the sign up sheet on the narthex table if you are able to help. Donations of bread/crackers are needed, too.



****Don't forget ... candy Easter eggs are now for sale!****

Order forms are available on the narthex table.

To be remembered in prayer ... Ronald Black, Richard Eisenhart, Timothy Filler, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Monica Wagner, Leon Warmkessel, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



Volunteers from Friedens are needed at Betty Lou's Pantry on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays in March. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help!

We are also collecting laundry detergent for Betty Lou's throughout this month. Donations may be brought to church at any time. You may also choose to make a financial donation so detergent may be purchased on your behalf. Thanks for your generosity!



If you would like to sponsor lily plants for Easter Sunday, April 5th, order forms are available on the back ledge in the narthex hallway. The cost is \$8.25/per plant.

Please return form along with payment to Nancy Filler or Karen Bugger, no later than Sunday, March 8th.

