

The 4th Sunday of Lent

March 10th, 2024 ~ 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



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Confession for Lent

P: Most merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way, yet without sin, we confess before You that we have sinned.

C: We have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us.

P: O Lord, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us. We do not love what You love. We do not embrace what You embrace.

C: Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do.

P: Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Continue working in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #848 "Give to Our God Immortal ..."

*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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of Your Son, You lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into Your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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 ~ Numbers 21: 4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and
from the west, from the north and from the south;



**¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

**²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.**

**²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

**²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.**

The Second Reading ~ Ephesians 2: 1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel Acclamation**



*The Holy Gospel ~ John 3: 14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹⁴“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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #660

“Lift High the Cross”



*Hymn #342

“There in God’s Garden”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God.

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*thank
you*

... to Alex Stauffer for serving as our lector

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our usher & counter

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

To be remembered in prayer ... Irlanda Berti, Bill Bugger, Leona Callahan, Levi Cressman, Sharon Edwards, Hope Geary, Harvey and Janet Heckman, Rod and Susan Heckman, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, and the people of Israel and Ukraine.



Easter lily order forms are available in the narthex area. All orders are due **TODAY!**

+ Mid-Week Lenten Services +

Wed., March 13th ~ Lower Saucon UCC
(1375 3rd Ave., Hellertown)

Wed., March 20th ~ Friedens Lutheran

Soup suppers begin at 6pm and the worship services at 7pm. You are most welcome to attend.



*Soup makers are needed for when it is Friedens' turn to host the Lenten meal and service on Wednesday, March 20th. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help in this way. Thank you!



Have you placed your order for Easter egg candy?

Now is the time to do so!

Order forms are available in the narthex.

Cost = \$1.75/per egg

Mild & dark peanut butter

Dark coconut cream

Dark double (shredded) coconut