

The 5th Sunday of Lent

March 17th, 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 #343 "My Song is Love Unknown"**

***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, with steadfast love You draw us to Yourself, and in mercy You receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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 ~ Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 51 (selective verses read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned & done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak & right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

—————>

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 5: 5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was a pointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation



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 12: 20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of His death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 12th chapter of St. John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #330 "Seed That in Earth is Dying"

*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:

P: Hear us, O God ... C: Your mercy is great

Anthem

“Look to the Cross”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



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

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be received by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice and will hand it to each communicant so that they may receive it between thumb and forefinger and place it in their own mouth. Children and youth not yet instructed in the meaning of the sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and a cracker. †

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted Your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn #545**

“Lord Dismiss Us”

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.
Thanks be to God.

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*thank
you*

... to Maureen Wagner 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, Zach-
ary, and the people of Israel and Ukraine.



+ Mid-Week Lent +

Wed., March 20th ~ Friedens Lutheran

**Soup supper begins at 6pm and the worship service
at 7pm. You are most welcome to attend.**

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are
able to provide soup for that night. Thanks!

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 & shredded coconut



Calling all kids!

Friedens' annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, March 24th, immediately after the worship service.

Come & join the fun!



+ Holy Week Schedule +

Maundy Thursday 7pm at Friedens

Good Friday 7pm at New Jerusalem Lutheran

(3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem)