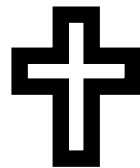


# First Sunday of Lent

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00 am



*281 Years of  
Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love!*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA  
Founded in 1743

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

## PRELUDES

**9:00 am**

**On Tannenberg: Variations on "Hendon"**

Tune by Henri A.C. Malan, Arr. Rachel Sawyer

**On Piano: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"**

Words and Music by Brian Doerksen

**On Allen Organ: "Antiphon"**

Henry Kihlken

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Bulletins are sponsored in honor and memory of **Ivan H. Shoemaker**, a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather by Laura Clark and family.

## GREETING

**A:** 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.

**HYMN "Guide Me, Ever Great Redeemer" – ELW #618, Vs. 1 & 3**



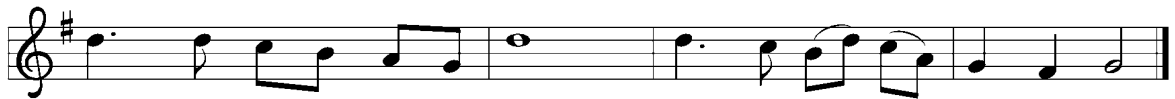
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



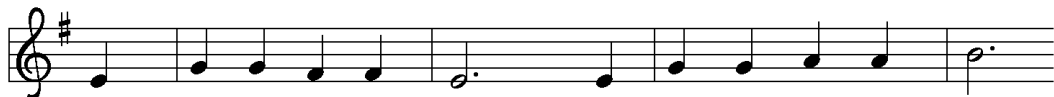
feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

A: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A: God of life,

C: Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

A: Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

## FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

## PSALM 25:1-11

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,

O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## 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.

## GOSPEL:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark,

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

## Mark 1:9-15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON\*

### SERMON HYMN "When Peace Like a River" – ELW #785, Vs. 1, 2, & 4



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people *especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today*. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling *especially Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Don Walt, Colleen Elliot, Cindy Batten, Joan Emswiler, Hilary Cohen, Valerie Bazzley, Roger Batten & Cristin Lorman*. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**



P: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Let us share the peace with one another*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### "Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

Zion Choir

*Please stand*

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

*Please stand*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father through Christ our Lord. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HYMN

### “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, the beginning and the end, you are our salvation and our hope. We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages, your son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C: Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### **#1 – "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" – ELW #484**

Text: Omer Westendorf, Music: Robert E. Kreutz

### **#2 – "We Come to the Hungry Feast" – ELW #479- All verses**

Text and Music: Ray Makeever

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

A: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

**SENDING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" – ELW #505, Vs. 1, 2 & 4**



1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to  
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -  
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-



fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of  
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they  
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,  
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,  
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,



for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.  
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;  
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,



is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.  
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the bat - tle.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.  
 they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**"The Light of the World is Jesus"**

Philip P. Bliss, Arr. Richard Miles

## Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Job 4:1-21	Eliphaz speaks of sin
Tuesday	Job 5:8-27	We are to seek God
Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11	Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation
Thursday	Proverbs 30:1-9	Plea to be safe from temptation
Friday	1 Peter 3:8-18a	About suffering
Saturday	Psalms 77	Prayer for God to remember us

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