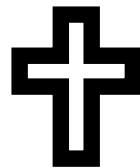


Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17th, 2024

9:00 am

Communion



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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743

Sunday, March 17th, 2024 – led by Pastor Stephen Boughter

INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

PRELUDES

9:00 am

On Tannenberg: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Tune: English Melody Arr. Robert J. Powell

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

Words and Music by Stuart Townend, Arr. by Carol Tornquist

"His Loving and Mysterious Ways"

Beatrice A. Miller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Heavenly Birthday to my Mom, **Catherine McConaghy**
and my sweet daughter **Kimberly Winter**.

Happy Birthday to my sweet granddaughter, **Jenny Sheptock**.

Happy Birthday to my special & dear forever friend **Barbara Barndt-Miller-Seeley**,
- I've been blessed to have you all in my life, Barbara Winter

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 "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed" – ELW #337, vs. 1, 2 & 5



- 1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
- 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
- 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
- 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
- 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



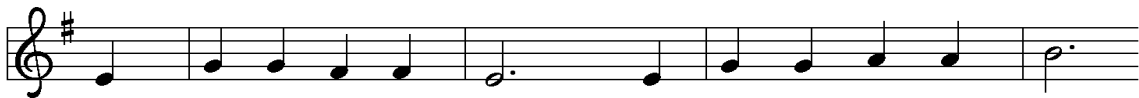
Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: 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.

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.

Please be seated

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.

PSALM 51:1-12

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash 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.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and 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.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and 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.

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:

R: The Holy Gospel according to John,

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

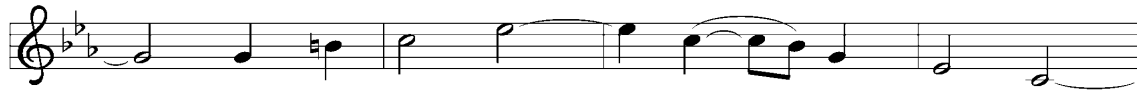
SERMON HYMN "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" – ELW #325, All Verses



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation and those in the Muhlenberg Parish. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill, *especially Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Don Walt, Cindy Batten, Joan Emswiler, Hilary Cohen, Valerie Bazzley, Cristin Lorman, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale, Ellen Gray and Holly Bauman.* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us *especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today.* Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Text: John Bowring, Music: Ithamar Conkey

Zion Bell 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



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 – “Break Now the Bread of Life” – ELW # 515, All Verses

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, Music: William F. Sherwin

#2 – “What Feast of Love” – ELW #487, All Verses

Text: Delores Dufner, Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

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

P: 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 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" – ELW #545, all verses



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

Noel Nouvelet, based on a French Carol; Setting, Nancy Raabe

Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Isaiah 43:8-13	God is our savior
Tuesday	Isaiah 44:1-8	God gives life to the people
Wednesday	John 12:34-50	God gives eternal life
Thursday	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23	God promises future blessings
Friday	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	God's glory in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 119:9-16	Treasuring God's word

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