

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

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.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Let Not your Heart be Troubled* ~D. Paxton

Stand **HYMN #338** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

C Amen.

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
C Amen.

P Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand **Greeting**

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

Spoken **Kyrie** -

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C Lord, have mercy

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

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.

WORD

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.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

READ IN UNISON

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

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

**Against 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.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

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

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

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.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken **Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

The Holy Gospel according to St John the 12th Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

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.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"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. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it

was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He 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

HYMN #336 *Lamb of God*

Stand **Apostles' Creed**

**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

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Jesus Christ our Lord

C **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contact” sharing of the Peace till further notice.**

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

Stand OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Faithful God,

C you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from
death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 for the 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A God of steadfast love,

at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.

Send us in the power of your Spirit,

that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

Stand **BLESSING**

P You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor

God bless you + that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C Amen.

Stand **HYMN #337** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

Please do not leave your bulletin in the pews, dispose of them in the Narthex in recycling can.

POSTLUDE *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

~ Wm Doane

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National Council of the Churches

Operating Receipts thru February 28: \$32,887

Payments made thru February 28: \$46,692

Attendance: 03/14/2021 96 (3 services)

We look forward to continued support of our mission
through your generous response to God's gifts given to
us.

READINGS for March 28, 2021:

Processional Gospel Mark 11:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1--15:47

Altar Flowers are given in Memory of my sister, Irene
Wagner by Shirley Johns.

ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost
\$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both
entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime
throughout the year.

ATTENTION: So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if
you have changes to your name, address phone number
and your email address changed, you can call or send your
updated information to church office.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

Birthdays for March

03/01 – Alyse Ulrich	03/11 – Sara Jane Defrank
03/02 – Donna Lee	03/14 – Lauren Heckert
Michael Martellaro	03/17 – Jennifer Towsen
03/03 – Fred Hoover	03/21 – June Judd
Alison Keith	03/23 – Randy Whitaker
Luther Lengel	Bonnie Morris
Arlo Powell	03/25 - Pamela Baranowski
03/04 - Heather Lee	03/27 – Lore-Lee Walak
03/05 – Renee Carpenter	Aaron Lichtenwalner
03/07 – Lorie Cleaver	03/30 – James Dullen
Resta Deppen	03/30 – Robert Gill
Doug Womer	03/31 –Tania Brown
James Walak	Carrie Appleby
Colin Smith	Deborah Lee
03/08 – Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk	
03/10 – Hailey Himelright	

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,
Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Kevin Spencer; Sandy Sherman

FLOWER DELIVERY - Barb Dudek

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - Pam Baranowski

717-652-6700 ext 3

SEXTON - Don Young

Upcoming Events



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Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald - March 21, 2021

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 21 or April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! Cost is free, please register.

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Summer Camp Open House at Nawakwa - March 21, 2021

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 21 or April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! Cost is free, please register.