

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021

PRELUDE
WELCOME

Welcome to all in the sanctuary, in the parking lot and at home on this First Sunday of Lent. Following Transfiguration Sunday, we continue into Lent with the theme of mountaintop and wilderness, prayer and preparation. Today we ask what do we pack for our Lenten journey? What do we want to be sure to take with us? What can we do without or leave behind?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN**

319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

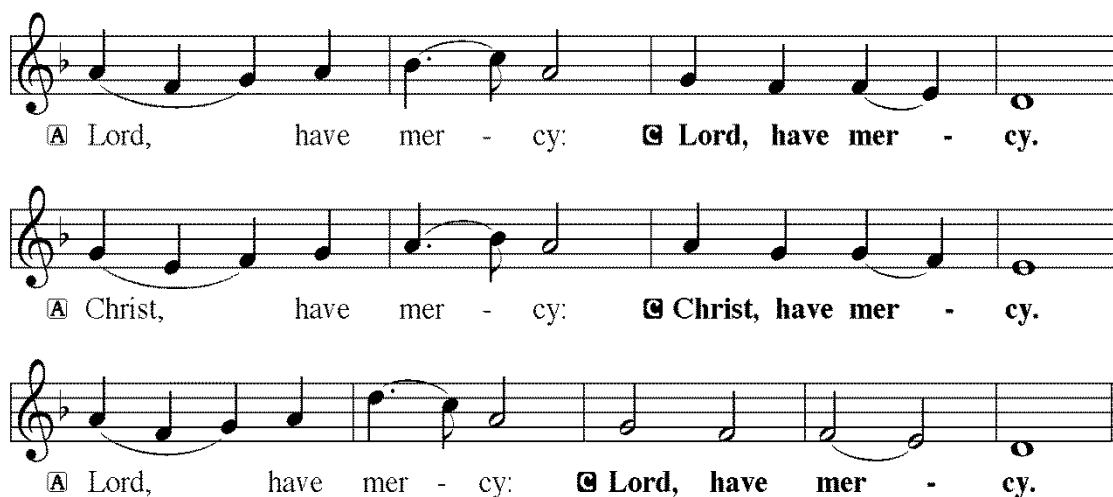
C **Amen**

***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.**

***KYRIE**



A Lord, have mer - cy: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
A Christ, have mer - cy: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
A Lord, have mer - cy: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

***HYMN of PRAISE**



C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
F Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
 wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison) Prayers and Lessons are found in Celebrate**

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Let us pray...

THE LESSONS

*First Lesson ~ A reading from Genesis 9:8-17

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 25:1-10 ~ *with response*

The psalm is announced, organ plays response 1x, cantor or pastor sings 1x, people join to sing response, then as psalm is read, congregation sings response at each R.

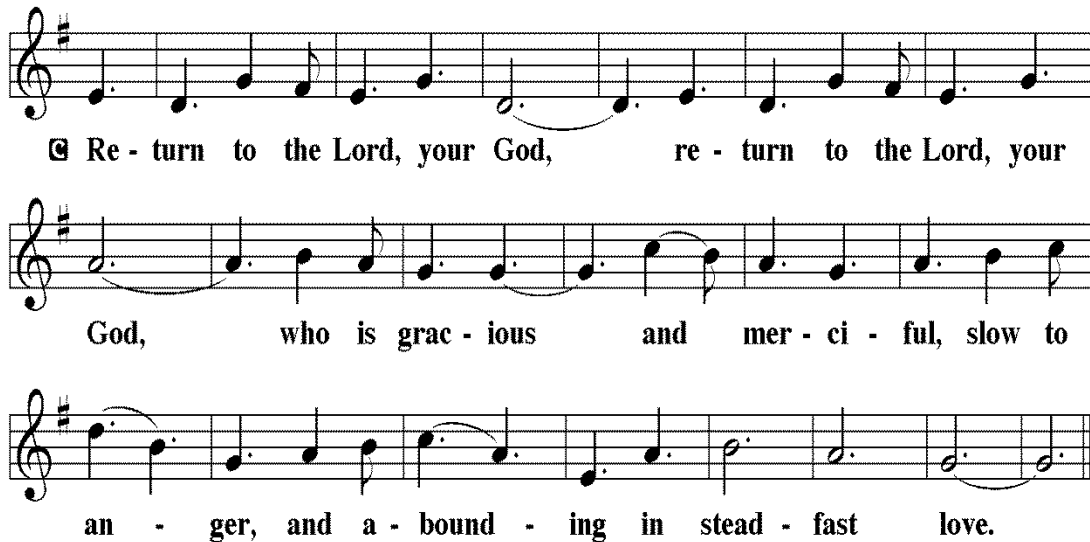
*Second Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Peter 3:18-22

after the reading

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL READING

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

302

I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS Irregular with refrain

Sydney Carter, 1963

American Shaker melody
Harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the
 2. I danced for the scribe and the
 3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I
 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the
 5. They cut Me down and I

world was be - gun, And I danced in the moon and the
 Phar - i - see, But they would not dance and they
 cured the lame; The ho - ly peo - ple
 sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the
 leap up high; I am the life that will

stars and the sun, And I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low Me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they
 dev - il on your back. They bur - ied My bod - y and they
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

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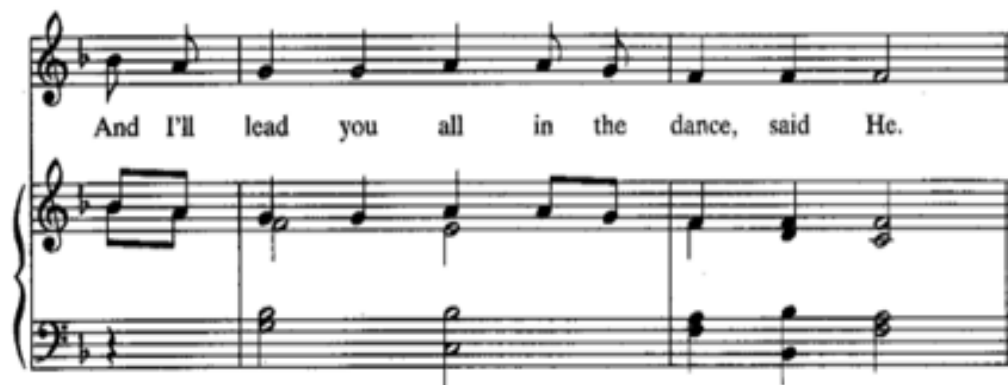
danced on the earth; At Beth - le - hem I had My birth.
 James and John; They came with Me and the dance went on.
 hung Me high, And left Me there on a cross to die.
 thought I'd gone: But I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.



Refrain
 Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



Dance, said He, And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,



And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

*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 the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world,
 and all in need.

A brief silence

ASH WEDNESDAY REMEMBRANCE (for those who could not attend on Wednesday)

Each of you have received a cup with oil and ash. As the Pastor leads, we will apply this to our foreheads or to a family member next to you in the sign of a cross with the words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

***THE PEACE ~** You may greet others with a sign of peace - a wave or a slight bow with hand over your heart and the words "Peace of Christ or Peace be with you!"

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C And also with you.**

OFFERING ~ All loose offering this week will go to support Camp Mt. Luther. You may also include it with your offering and notate CML on the check or envelope.

(please leave your gifts in one of the offering plates **at the end of the front and back pews** (Mechanic St. side) on your way out, or if you are worshipping from the back parking lot you may leave them - in the box by the outside basement steps)

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord is here.

C His Spirit is with us.

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 thanks and praise.

***PREFACE for LENT**

P It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and mind we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen

***LORD's PRAYER**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C 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

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion:

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you;

C Amen. [Please open and take the wafer]

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen. [Please open and take the juice]

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.

C Amen.

***CANTICLE**

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

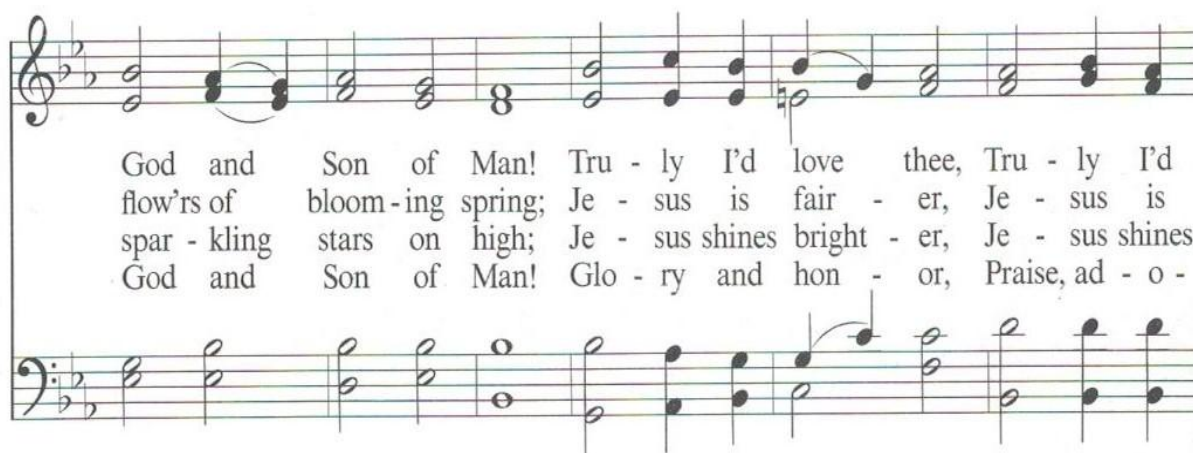
C Amen

Beautiful Savior

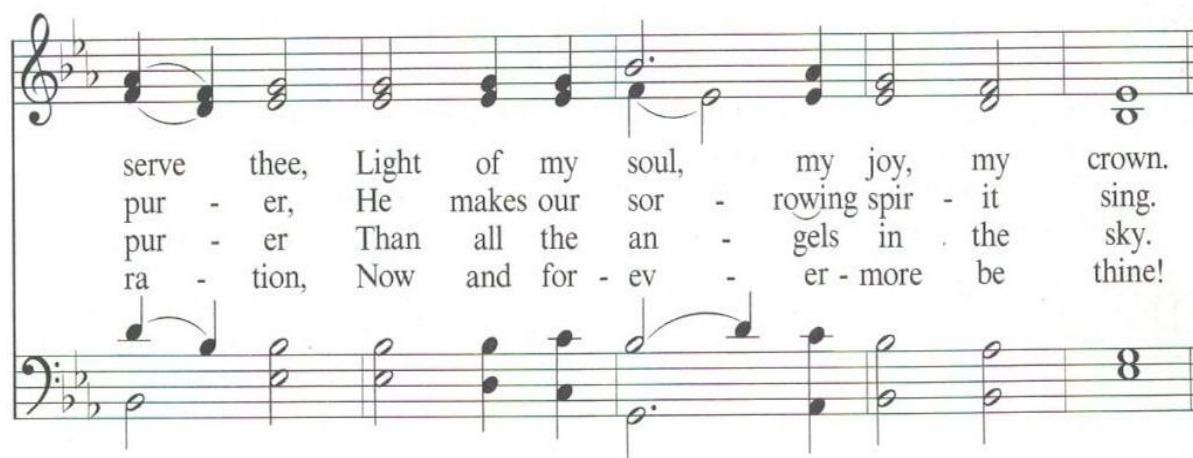
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1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE ~ *please exit the church using the aisle and staircase on the left
(Mechanic St. side, remembering to keep a safe distance from others)

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Organist: Seulki Susie Yoo

Congregational Song Leaders: Reba Harmon and Ed Bilich

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

Our Vision Statement

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our
prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

Today

Greeter: Carol Fultz; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

Next Sunday, February 28 ~ Congregational Meeting in F.H.

Greeter: Joy Byler; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

Please remember in prayer ~ Pastor Ken Longfield, Vivian Plank, Fred Hagemeyer, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz) and Carol Yoder (VVH).

FROM the PASTOR

Upper Susquehanna Synod News - CAMP Mt. LUTHER

Annie Harshbarger has been hired in a new position at Camp Mount Luther for the summer - Camper - Family Liason. She is also our official "Camperson."

Did you know that you do not have to be a kid to go to camp? There are special programs for adults and opportunities for individual retreats. If you want to introduce a young person to camp without attending the whole week there are day camper opportunities too.

Annie writes:

"Thank you for the prayers and your support of Mount Luther. Anyone can contact me at home (717-935-2453) or by email harshbargeranne13@gmail.com if they want to talk about camp or camp events. If someone wants to send a kid, grand kid, or themselves to camp, I have camel bucks for them to spend at the camp store! There are two brochures in the narthex and they can be found online at campmountluther.org.

And here are some **important dates** as well:

CML Early **Registration** Deadline: April 15, 2021 (\$25 discount)

Bishop's Open **Golf Classic**: May 10, 2021

Work Day: May 22, 2021

Announcements

Thank you to those who kept us in thought and prayer during my recent back surgery. Recovery is going well. And, a special thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for the Valentine's Day gift and goodies. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Marge and Dick Shilling

Lent began this past Wednesday. Still available in the narthex are two devotionals. The first, *A Season of Grace* is large print, and is written by Seniors for Seniors. The second, *Steadfast Love* is based on the works of Henri Nouwen. Each one is well-written and will be a nice addition to your daily meditation during this Lenten season.

Please contact the church office or your good shepherd if you would like to have one/both mailed to you.

Our worship service followed by the congregational meeting will be held next Sunday, February 28 in the **fellowship hall**. **Information can be found in member mailboxes**. If you would like to have it mailed, please contact the church office or your good shepherd.

Fresh fruit, pastries and beverages will be served. **ANYONE** who is not comfortable coming into the building can attend **worship and the meeting** in the back parking lot. Council is working on the details, but you will be included in the total needed (30) for a quorum.

Reminder ~ we will not be using altar flowers during the Lenten season. If you would like to place chancel flowers, please contact the church office.

January 1 thru February 17, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 23 Offering ~ \$ 1,850.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 26,857.82 Expense \$ 23,954.05*

Net Income \$ 2,903.77

*In order to have the financial report reflect the "actual" income and expense, the Gladys Mahady Bequest which was recently moved to investments, **will no longer** be included in the weekly report totals.

Ed Bilich will provide further explanation at the congregational meeting.

Daycare ~ Income \$ 16,049.51 Expense \$ 25,326.23

Net Income \$ -9,276.72