

St. John's Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023



Temptation in the Wilderness.

Britton, Riviere. 1898

PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG ~ *Forty Days and Forty Nights* Verses 1, 2 and 5**

LENT

77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH 7.7.7.7

George Hunt Smytten, 1856; alt.

Attr. Martin Herbst, 1676

1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
 2. Shall not we Your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;

For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with You to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!
 Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served You faith - ful - ly.

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
 Ever constant by Your side;
 That with You we may appear
 At the eternal Eastertide.

♩=50-54

***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.

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

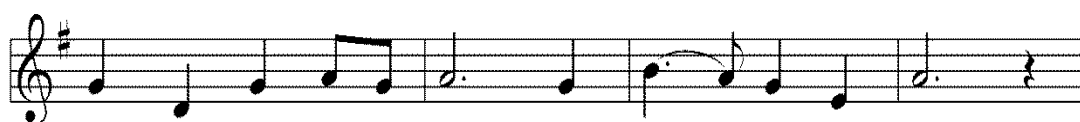
P Let us pray...

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

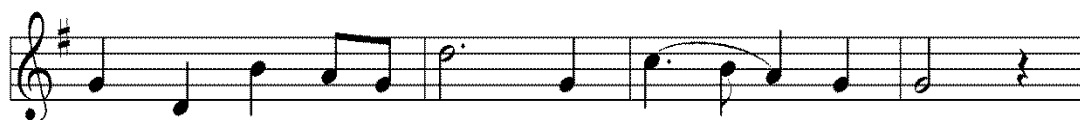
THE LESSONS

*Psalm 32 ~ *with response*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



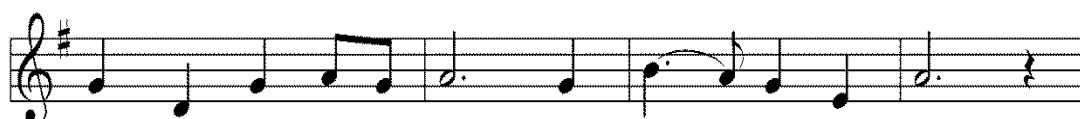
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



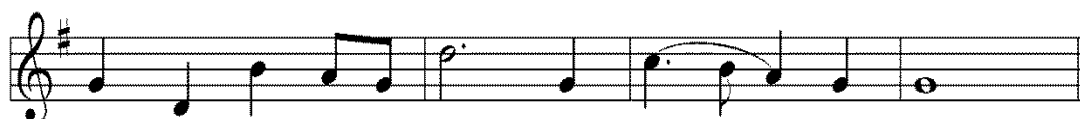
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

***GOSPEL READING**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

***RESPONSE to the WORD**

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C We believe in him and are marked with the seal
of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

***THE PEACE**

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews on your way out.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God,

**C in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life,
from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer
ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give
thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ *Found in Celebrate

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of creation.

A brief silence

***LORD's PRAYER**

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

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

***THE BLESSING**

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

C **Amen**

***SENDING SONG ~ Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

WOV# 771

771

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

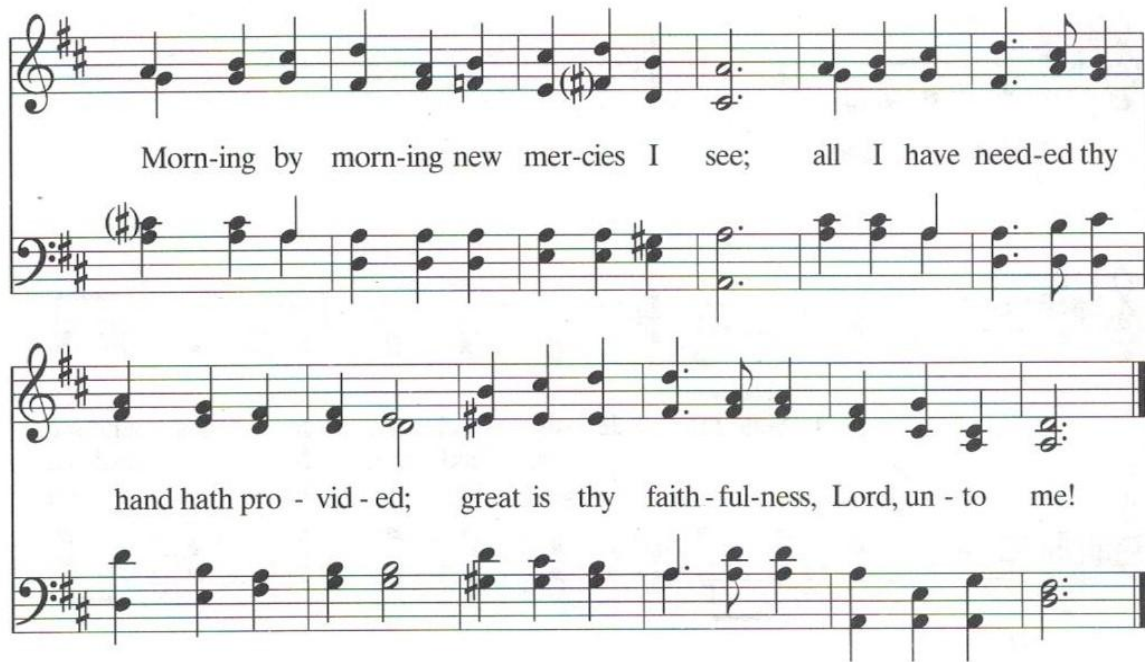
shad-ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Continued on next page



***CHARGE**

P In peace let us serve God as we continue with our Congregational Meeting.

R Thanks be to God

Prayer for Congregational Meeting

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

Organist: Seulki Yoo

Today

Altar Care: Michele Harshbarger; **Greeter:** Deb French

Lay Reader: Deb French; **Sound:** Jay Byler

Next Sunday, March 5

Altar Care: Brenda Boring; **Greeters:** John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring; **Sound:** Jay Byler

Church Office: 935-2032; **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

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.

Please remember in prayer ~ Don F. Smith (VV rehab), Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim, Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH). Family and friends of Gwen Hornberger.

FROM the PASTOR

Thank you to all who attended, participated in and assisted with our Ash Wednesday Service. It was an uplifting and beautiful way to begin our Lenten Journey. Thank you to Lisa Griffith, Seulki Yoo, Joe Kanagy, Jami Zook, Reba Harmon, Ed Bilich, Brenda Boring, and Bill Cullingford

Some people ask about observing the 40 days, honoring Christ's temptations in the wilderness, with fasting or going off a favorite food, Facebook or internet game. Lent began with Ash Wednesday. The ELCA Church, along with many other Protestant denominations is a 'Resurrection Church.' Each Sunday celebrates the resurrection and new life in Christ. Many Lutherans begin the 40 days observance on Ash Wednesday so that 'fasting' occurs on all days except Sundays; Sunday remains a day of joy and celebration. If you want to observe the 40 days but didn't get a start on Ash Wednesday discern the best way for you to do this. Even embarking on this discipline in a way that fits your schedule is worthwhile. You will improve and grow with its meaning each year.

Holy Week Services ~ April 6, Maundy Thursday 7pm at St. John's, and April 7, Good Friday 7pm at West Kish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent began last week. The church is providing the following devotionals ~ *In View of God's Mercy* and *The Joy of Salvation*. They are available in the narthex. Please contact the office if you would like to have one mailed to you.

Committee sign-up sheets will remain in the narthex through the end of this month. Please prayerfully consider serving. There are several no one has signed up to help serve on.

MARCH 8-9, 2023: RAISE THE REGION

Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA's "Raise the Region" on March 8-9, 2023. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Mount Luther these days to the camp's Annual Fund unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. To be part of Raise the Region, visit www.raisetheregion.org during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for ten years and has garnered about \$179,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

January 1 thru February 22, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 25 Offering ~ \$1,030.00

St. John's ~ Income \$29,824.69 Expense \$27,290.42

Net Income \$2,534.27

Daycare ~ Income \$59,123.65 Expense \$57,908.90

Net Income \$1,214.75