

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

- PLEASE PARK FACING THE CHURCH, and dress warmly so that our cars are not idling throughout the service. Of course, a hot beverage, a lap robe or a lap animal may also help. The service will be brief in cold weather, and become longer and include more music and Holy Communion as the mornings get warmer.
- TUNE your radio to **90.1 FM** (the signal is probably too weak to use your radio's Scan command, because it may skip right over it. The broadcast can be heard for about 100 yards)
- SING AS LOUD AS YOU WANT IN YOUR CAR – pretend that you are doing Carpool Karaoke with James Corden on late night television.
- OFFERINGS will be collected as you enter the parking lot by the ushers in bright green vests.
- TO TALK TO EACH OTHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE SERVICE roll down your windows and wear a mask. Due to traffic ***please don't get out of your car to mill around*** (in addition to members parking their cars, remember that the south side of the parking lot has a public road cutting through it!).
- BATHROOMS are available through the front and back doors of the building.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Second Sunday in Lent – February 28th, 2021

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Grace Greater Than Our Sin
Mark O'Hearn and Audrey Christ, organ/piano duet

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

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.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

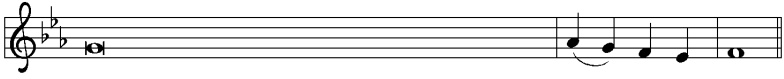
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



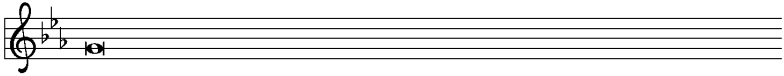
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



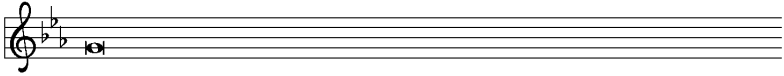
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

We Are Waiting to Hear Your Word
Mark O'Hearn, soloist

Greg Sheer

A prerecorded anthem is available to view in Sunday's recorded service on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Tanya Cartwright

A prerecorded children's sermon is available to view in Sunday's recorded service on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The God of Abraham Praise

831

The assembly proclaims the word of God in song.

- 1 The God of Abr'ham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love--
"I Am the One I Am"--
by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.
- 2 The God of Abr'ham praise!
At your supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at your right hand.
I all on earth forsake--
its wisdom, fame, and pow'r--
and you my only portion make,
my shield and tow'r.
- 3 The God of Abr'ham praise!
Your all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days
in all my ways.
You deign to call me friend;
you call yourself my God!
And you will save me to the end
through Jesus' blood.
- 4 Your promise you have sworn;
I on your oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,
to heav'n ascend.

I shall behold your face;
I shall your pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of your grace
forevermore.

5 Though nature's strength decay,
and earth and hell withstand,
to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
at your command.
The wat'ry deep I pass,
with Jesus in my view,
and through the howling wilderness
my way pursue.

6 The goodly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty
and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

7 Before the great Three-One
the saints exulting stand
and tell the wonders God has done
through all their land.
The list'ning spheres attend
and swell the growing fame
and sing the songs which never end,
the wondrous name.

8 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays:
to you be glory, might divine,
and endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give strength to the weary and hope to the discouraged. In this time of global pandemic, make your love known in our lives, and give wisdom to leaders, knowledge to researchers, understanding through the church, safety to essential workers, and patience to educators, parents and children Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine; bring hope and recovery to the people of Texas. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving, especially those whom we now raise in prayer before you... Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families, especially our child care and faith and family ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The Glory of These Forty Days

320

- 1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.
- 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.

Outside USA: Text from The English Hymnal © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez &

family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, David Griffiths, Stanley Daniels

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:30am	10:30am
Ushers	Faith Batz Bill Shay	Donald Boyer
Cantor(s)	Mark O'Hearn	Mark O'Hearn
Sound Board		Gary Reager
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, & Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:30am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	
Ushers	Faith Batz	Deb Reed Hunter Reed
Cantor(s)	Mary Rowe	Lloyd Wertz
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Counters	Lou Messina & Janet Sattizahn	

WEEKLY NEWS

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTOR, Mark O'Hearn. Mark is the organist at the First United Methodist Church in Pottsville. We are very excited to absorb his musical talents with our ears today!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER will be held on the Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday but before Holy Week (Feb 24 – March 24) at 6:30 at least initially in the parking lot. Instead of sermon series, each week we will lift up a "20th Century Witness" who through their lives and writings, point us toward scripture, neighbor, and faithfulness even in severe and difficult times like these days. In addition to the small, battery -operated tea light that we will give to everyone to place on his/her dashboard for Evening Prayer (The light of Christ! Thanks be to God!), please remember to bring a cellphone or flashlight to read by.

WHY WE ARE WORSHIPING OUTSIDE: We know that many people are asking questions, and we are all itching to gather again inside. Some ask why other churches are inside, singing together, or not even wearing masks, while we are not doing those things – the short answer is that we love you too much to use practices that risk your lives, while the longer answer is that we respect and seek to follow both health and church guidelines. Other people have wondered why our child care and confirmation class are inside but worship isn't yet – the answer to this is that children have a much lower rate of adverse or fatal impacts from COVID than adults. In the meantime please keep our child care ministry in prayer because we have had both staff and children test positive, and as a result, have had quarantines and class closures.

And about the guidelines... Our Coronavirus Task Force, in consultation and in making recommendations to Church Council uses the most recent guidelines from an ecumenical group (Baptist to Lutheran to Roman Catholic) of church and health leaders working from Emory University and Divinity School (see: https://download.elca.org/.../Resuming_Care-filled...). While the infection rate in Schuylkill County is much lower than the awful surge from Thanksgiving to after New Year's, it has not yet gone down enough to provide the level of recommended safety. The three recommended goals for in-person worship in an area include: less than 5% positivity among folks tested, new cases at a rate of less than 10 in 100,000 people, and Intensive Care beds in the area filled to less than 70%. We ARE hopeful that if the numbers continue to improve in our area, that we will be able to resume some form of in-person worship soon.

LOOKING FORWARD TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP! What we have seen at Jerusalem is that many people are not comfortable coming out to worship in any format, and we love and support them with recordings and/or mailings. Other people feel comfortable and safe enough with in-person worship, but some of them do not like parking lot worship. Yet other folks only feel comfortable worshipping in the parking lot and will not yet come inside to worship. Therefore, we anticipate that when in-person worship resumes to ALSO provide radio broadcasts to the parking lot – somewhat like hybrid school with some students in class and some online, we envision having some people worshipping inside and some people worshipping in their cars. The body of Christ has many parts, and some people have very different needs, feelings, and vulnerabilities (see 1 Corinthians 12:14-27), so we envision a worshipping community in the near future sitting in both pews and cars, that we could not have imagined a year ago!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:30am Worship
9:15am Confirmation Class
10:30am Worship

TUESDAY 6:30pm Social Ministry Meeting (Via Zoom)

WEDNESDAY 2:00pm Coronavirus Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom)
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship

BELOW IS A LIST OF COVID-19 VACCINE SITES IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

Site	Address	City	Contact Info.
St. Luke's Miners Memorial Hospital	360 West Ruddle St.	Coaldale, PA 18218	Phone: 1-866-785-8537
Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital	100 Paramount Blvd.	Orwigsburg, PA 17961	Website: https://www.slnh.org/covid-19/protect-yourself/covid-19-vaccine Phone: 1-866-StLukes(opt. 7)
Surgery Center of Pottsville	1544 Route 61 Suite 6192	Pottsville, PA 17901	Phone: 570-385-7000
Lehigh Valley Hospital Schuylkill	700 E. Norwegian St.	Pottsville, PA 17901	Website: https://www.LVHN.org/vaccines Contact name: Luis Puentes Phone: 833-584-6283
Schuylkill Community Health Center	210 Sunbury St.	Minersville, PA 17954	Website: https://primary-health.net/covid-vaccine-clinic.aspx Contact Name: Ashlee Montgomery Phone: 724-699-9211
Family Practice Center	105 W. Main Street	Valley View, PA 17983	Phone: 570-682-8026
Redner's Pharmacy	22 Forest Drive	Hegins PA 17938	Call store phone currently for scheduling; Updating website



I/we _____ (name(s))
have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.