

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and

mercy in our communities and the world.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

- IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street, and set your radio to **90.1 FM.** Bulletins will have been given to you on entering the lot, and your offering will have been gathered in a basket by an usher. For Sunday Communion, please hold onto the wafers in plastic bags that you will have been given until the consecration and invitation to commune takes place later in the service. Pastor will try to lead part of the service from outside. Rest rooms are available in the church building.
- IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS, please park at the far side of the front lot, the back lot, or one of the handicap spaces. Bulletins and communion wafers will have been distributed when you entered the lot, and your offering will have been gathered. Masks will be worn in the building, or outside when talking to others, and everyone needs to stay six feet away from people in other households. Because speaking and singing can spread the virus even when wearing masks, we will not speak the responses out loud or sing – the assisting minister will speak the responses in the service and a cantor will sing on our behalf.
- VISITORS, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now and so we are glad that you are here with us so that together we call can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Third Sunday in Lent – March 7th, 2021 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Arr. Richard Purvis

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

<u>WORD</u>

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale | to another,

and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no | words or language,

Psalm 19

and their voices | are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's | own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

SECOND READING

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

ANTHEM

Jesus with Us Abide Andrew Surotchak, soloist

W. Glen Darst

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

Lift High the Cross

660

The assembly proclaims the word of God in song. Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

Tanya Cartwright

 So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956 Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by* permission.

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*.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people may place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions may honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill world leaders with the willingness to look foolish for the sake of peace and mercy. Knowing that your law defends the vulnerable, inspire legislators, judicial systems, and agencies of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. Defend victims of crime, and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Sustain and guide the work of law enforcement officers and mental health workers. Give Sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the Good News of Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory, but the earth suffers from the effects of the coronavirus. Continue to give wisdom to researchers; clarity to vaccine distributers; strength to medical and family caregivers; security to essential workers; safety to our child care staff, children, and their families; and patience to teachers, students, and parents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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.

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.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks. The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; then the cantor inside, and the assembly outside, responds with the "Holy, Holy, Holy".

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power 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

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.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. *The communion wafers that have been distributed and now consecrated, are eaten.* The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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- In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,

hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide. *Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872*

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, Chervl 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 Llewellvn, Dennis Hevdt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Pavonk. 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, Fave 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 Direnzo, 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

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	Lloyd Wertz
Ushers	Faith Batz	Deb Reed
		Hunter Reed
Cantor(s)	Mary Rowe	Lloyd Wertz
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Counters	Lou Messina & Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Mary Rowe	Linda Covert
Ushers	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
	-	Jim Ziegelbean
Cantor(s)	Audrey Christ	Brenda Searle
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed,	and Marie Shay

WEEKLY NEWS

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTORS, Mary Rowe and Lloyd Wertz! Our pre-recorded anthem can be heard online and is performed by Andrew Surotchak a piano student of our Music Director, Audrey Christ.

CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE! Our Capital Campaign launched in May of 2019, has a total of \$236,688.23 as of 2/28/2021. Our goal for our 4 year campaign is \$350,000.00. Thanks to your faithful giving we are getting closer and closer! Thank you!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER will be held on the Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday but before Holy Week (Feb 24 – March 24) at 6:30. 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. Worshipers inside will see the vesper candle as a symbol of "the light of Christ," and worshipers in the parking lot will have a small bonfire, as well as battery-operated votive candles for their car dashboards.

WHY WE ARE WORSHIPING BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE. Although the infectious surge from several months ago has subsided, the coronavirus is still spreading at significant rate. The current level in Schuylkill though encouraging is still considered high, and not under control. Using both health

recommendations and sound worship practices, we are therefore offering both cautious in-person worship and parking-lot worship, because some people are more vulnerable than others.

NOTES ABOUT PANDEMIC WORSHIP! Here is why worship does not yet "look normal," and may not seem normal for a long time:

- Because potential exposure time to the coronavirus is an important factor for its spread, the service continues to be short.
- We have resumed weekly Holy Communion so that once again we can not only hear, but also taste the promise that God in Jesus Christ is *for* us. However, rather than have people come forward to receive the host which not only would increase the length of the service but also would become an awkward break for people worshiping in cars, the communion wafers will be distributed in small plastic bags before the service, held until their consecration, and then we will all eat them together. Modelled on pew communion which is acceptable, but not widely practiced or preferred by Lutheran leaders, we do look forward to when we can all once again approach the altar to receive Christ and Christ's promises in and with the bread and wine.
- Most of us love to sing, but the extra force behind singing expels aerosolized virus well beyond masks, and has been found when someone is infected, to spread COVID-19 to other worshipers even though they are wearing masks and distancing. Therefore the cantor will sing on our behalf, and likewise to avoid everyone speaking and putting an even larger quantity of aerosolized moisture in the air, we will whisper only the Apostles' Creed and Lord's Prayer, and leave it to the assisting minister to speak the rest of the service on our behalf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: here are two of the resources that we are using:

- the most recent guidelines from an ecumenical of church and health leaders' group (Baptist to Lutheran to Roman Catholic) working from Emory University and Divinity School (see: <u>https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Resumin</u> <u>g_Care-filled_Worship_and_Sacramental_Life.pdf</u>
- <u>www.covidactnow.org</u>, the website referred to in the ecumenical guidelines as a standard, simple, and reliable source for information

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:		
TODAY	8:30am Worship	
	9:15am Confirmation Class	
	10:30am Worship	
TUESDAY	1:00pm COVID-19 Meeting (Via Zoom)	
	6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (Via Zoom)	
	7:00pm Church Council Meeting (Via Zoom)	
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	
THURSDAY	12:30pm Blood Drive	