



In our Gospel today, forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – January 31st, 2021

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemmlutheran.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

There is a Balm in Gilead
Jerusalem Handbell Quartet

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,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

The Apple Tree
The Christ Family

Arr. K. Lee Scott

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

Jesus Shall Reign

434

The assembly proclaims the word of God in song.

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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.

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and Christians in daily life; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with the Coronavirus, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need who we now raise in prayer before you...; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the people of Jerusalem Lutheran: those who travel, those absent from worship, those who work in essential jobs during this pandemic; and for teachers and students, child care workers and children, and doctors and nurses during this pandemic, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Gavotte in Bb

Handel

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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, Joanne Huebsch, 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 Steficek, 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	Bill Shay Don Nettles	The Kramers
Cantor(s)	Rabekah CdeBaca	Mary Rowe
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Gary Reager
Counters	Linda Collins & Rob Baessler	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:30am	10:30am
Ushers	Faith Batz	Deb Reed Hunter Reed
Cantor(s)	Lloyd Wertz	Lloyd Wertz
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

WEEKLY NEWS

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTORS, Rabekah CdeBaca and Mary Rowe. Our anthem for today was recorded by the family of our Music Director, Audrey Christ.

THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY DIAPERS, SANITARY NAPKINS, AND INCONTINENCE BED PADS will be collected for our Council of Churches' Food Pantry. This diaper drive is a great way to support our struggling neighbors. After worship, you will be able to drop your donations in the big red shopping cart – either by dropping out your car window or *carefully getting out of your car while cars are leaving worship.*

THE ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL OFFERING will be held in conjunction with the Super Bowl throughout the country on Sunday, February 7. On a day when millions of dollars will be spent on gambling, commercials, and food and drink, in a country when ONE in FIVE children do not have adequate food security, we gather an offering of money for our Council of Churches' Food Pantry. So

let us consider how much we spend for fun on the Super Bowl, and give at least that much so that all may at least have Soup.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS are needed to be ushers, assisting ministers, sound board managers, and video recorders (a smartphone is needed; iPhones preferred because we are familiar with them). Training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering contact Melissa Boyer or the church office. THANK YOU to everyone, especially Barry Bedford, who made our first drive-in worship service successful!

THANK YOU for your prayers, cards, and flowers in response to the recent death of my mother. Mary Rowe and Pastor

JANE DIEBERT has a large recliner she would like to give to away. If anyone is interested in the recliner please call Jane, 570-453-8600.

CANCELLATION OF SERVICES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC OR WEATHER. If circumstances arise that worship and Sunday school need to be cancelled, the news will be announced on Facebook, the church website (www.jerusalem.lutheran.com), and on the office answering machine (570-385-2657). Because we have a covered walkway or the service can be led entirely from inside, there will be no need to cancel for ordinary bad weather. Worship will be cancelled only when the weather is too bad to travel.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

- TODAY** 8:30am Worship
 9:15am Confirmation Class
 10:30am Worship
TUESDAY 7:00pm Endowment Committee
WEDNESDAY 10:45am Marion McGlinchey entombment

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.slhn.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	700 E.	Pottsville,	Website:

Valley Hospital Schuylkill	Norwegian St.	PA 17901	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



On the Pandemic: A Renewed Call to Persevere and Prevail

From Bishop Christopher deForest, January 26, 2021

As the Covid-19 pandemic rages on, I have been asked by congregations and leaders across the synod to give my perspective as the new bishop and provide updated direction.

First, let us be clear: this crisis is not over. People are still suffering and dying at a devastating rate; and it looks increasingly likely that the worst may be yet to come over the next several weeks. Add to this, the fact that it is winter, so gathering and worshiping outside is very difficult. We are all exhausted and lonely from almost a year of this. And now, we have new threats coming from what appear to be more contagious, and perhaps more deadly, new mutant strains of the virus. Many businesses, large and especially small, are stretched to and beyond the breaking point. And political divisions are not only driving us apart; in our frustration and despair, they can lead us to give up on the very practices and attitudes we need to stay alive, and to love our neighbors by safeguarding their health and lives as well.

And yet, we know there is hope on the horizon. Vaccines exist, they really work, and they are getting out, however imperfectly. Wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing, avoiding groups and crowds –these simple behaviors still make a big difference. Some of our congregations have worked out detailed plans for limited, safe gathering. And many are still

using technology as the best alternative. I applaud and give thanks for all who are working so hard and holding on so well, even now.

Considering all this, my direction is simple: **please stay the course**. As it is written in Hebrews 12:1-2: *‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us **run with perseverance the race that is set before us**,²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

In our case, “running with perseverance the race” at this moment means:

- If you are still gathering online or by means of technology, continue to do so.
- If you have already implemented a process for safely meeting in-person, continue to be vigilant in following your own guidelines.
- If our state and local authorities give new directives, let’s do our best to comply.
- On a personal level, let us continue to love our neighbor by wearing our masks, washing our hands, keeping social distance, and avoiding mixed indoor gatherings.

For how long? This is always the hard question. But in God I trust. And God has put in our midst good authorities of science and government, for whom we are called to trust and follow (Romans 13:1-7). In the synod office, as we receive new information, we will pass that on to you. The current information on our website concerning the pandemic still contains valuable direction and links to other reliable sources.

As a sign of hope that we will be in a better place in four months, we are moving forward now with plans for an in-person Synod Assembly for June 3-5—but we will also work on back-up plans to meet online if that is ultimately the wisest course. Look for more information on this coming out in February and March.

For now, please know that I pray for you each day, and I invite prayers for all of us, as we endure these difficult days. I believe we will look back on all this, in a similar way that we recall the great national and global tribulations of our past, such as the World Wars. We admire how our ancestors endured shortages, sacrifices, were forced to be apart for long periods, and had to deal with the real threats of injury, despair, death, loss and horrible grief. May God give us strength to persevere as they did—and to bring us over to new days of renewed peace, health, strength, purpose, and “joy set before us”; along with a deeper appreciation of all the gifts we have been given, of life and love and mutual care in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Peace,

Christopher deForest, Bishop Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod

DEALING
WITH COVID-19

