



The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away. . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26). Recommendations from the CDC and ecumenical church worship guidelines, have been prayerfully considered by our leaders for our worship practices. Therefore at this time in the Covid pandemic we are worshipping in this way:

WELCOME

- **IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS**, please leave the first few spaces in the front parking lot for parking lot worshipers. Further information on page 2.
- **IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS**, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street and tune your radio to **90.1 FM**.
- **VISITORS**, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we believe that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now. We are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love for God and our neighbors.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP binders are available in the church lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 27, 2022
Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-2657 * www.jerusalem.lutheran.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We have resumed congregational speaking and singing in the building.
 - Hymnals are available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshipping in the parking lot.
 - Large print worship binders are available inside. Those worshipping in the parking lot can request large print from an usher.
 - Wine and grape juice are once again being offered from the chalice inside, with intinction being offered outside. Please space yourselves as you come forward.
 - The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary by the door until we can safely pass the plates through many hands.
-

HOLY COMMUNION

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Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
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PREPARATION

PRELUDE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

arr. Franklin Ashdown

The bell rings calling us to worship.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True

Red Hymnal # 675

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.

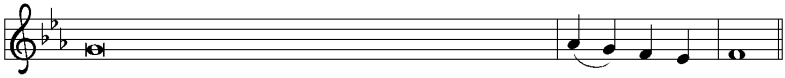
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



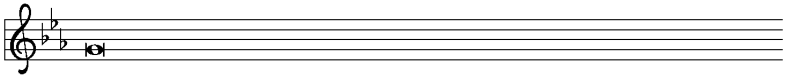
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



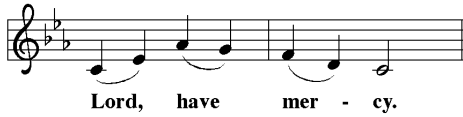
Lord, have mer - cy.



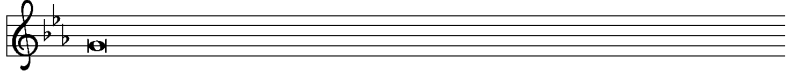
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The assembly inside is seated.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is¹ put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave
me the guilt¹ of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of
trouble;**

when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;
I will guide you¹ with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are¹ true of heart.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have

never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.
³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

SERMON

The Rev. James Covert

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Red Hymnal # 608

The assembly stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.

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.

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness,

hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Lord, bring your blessing to all this world. End all warfare, especially between Ukraine and Russia. Restore those affected by this conflict and bring them everlasting peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving especially those we name before you. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation especially the Little Free Pantry and our local food pantry. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have passed on before us. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at the great banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Pastor: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

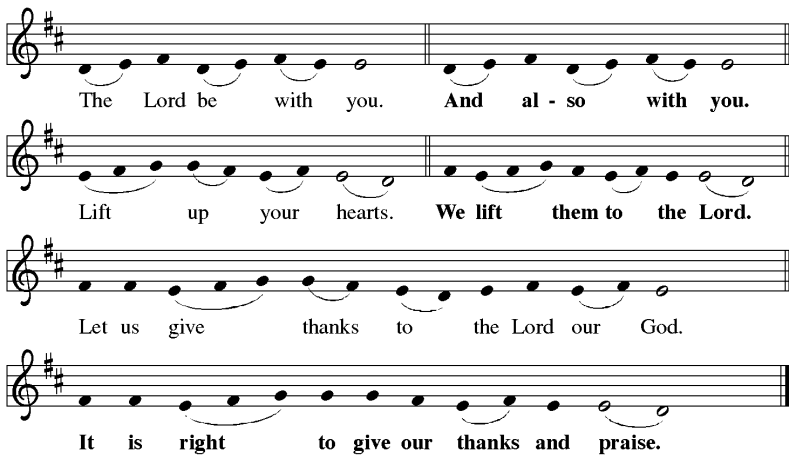
Set Me as a Seal

Anna Laura Page

MEAL

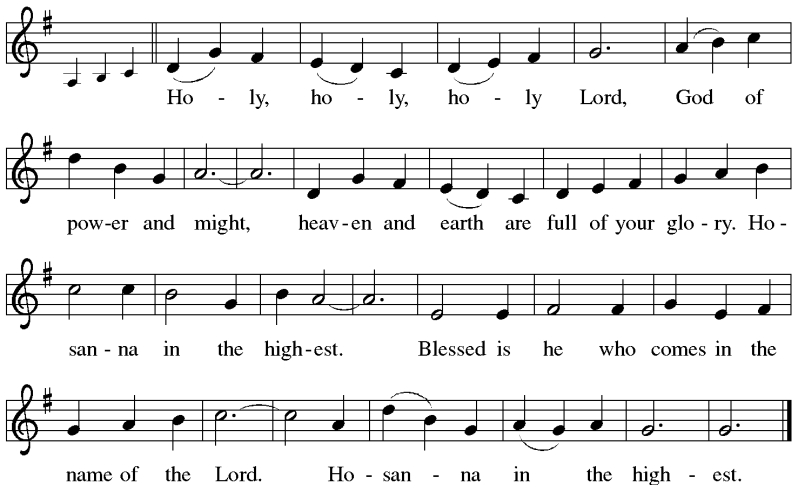
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; and then the assembly responds with “Holy, Holy, Holy.”



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER IV

...With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

...blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

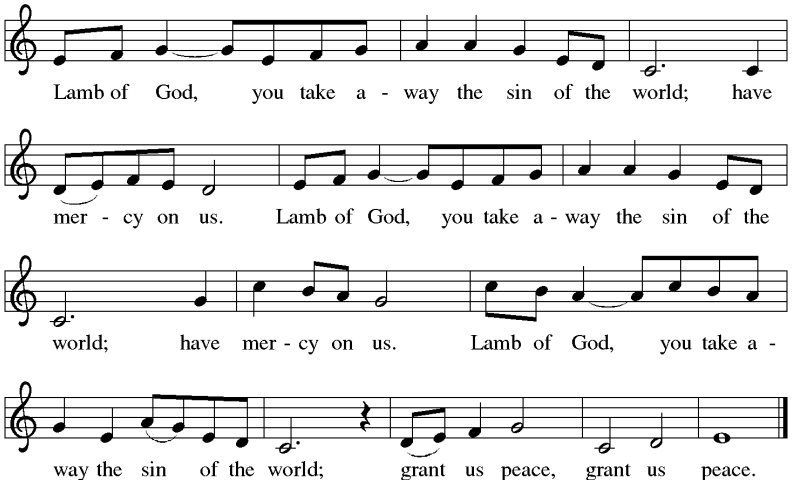
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

INSIDE WORSHIPERS: Ushers will dismiss you by pew. Please take an empty glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice.

OUTSIDE WORSHIPERS: The Lord's Supper will be brought to those outside by a Communion Assistant, who will use an intinction set.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Sun with Longer Journey

Red Hymnal # 329

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands. The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

What Wondrous Love Is This

Red Hymnal # 666

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

CHIMES

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PRAYER LIST

Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Jane Deibert, Tom Cook, Ronald Bromwell, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Madge Miller, Melissa Focht, Cecelia Kacmar, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Clarence Zweizig, Melvin Rodriguez & family, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Kim O'Donnell, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Stephen Edwards, Christa Miller, Cathy Covach-Hale, Rev. Bruce MacLaughlin, Mary Miller, Rose Martin-Fuls, Earle Kull, Trent Johnson, Mary Rauch, Tom Lokitus, Albert Tripp, Helen Fath, Diana Vasquez, Dorothy & Dan Ness, Robin Moran, Kendra Johnson, Deb Esposito, Rob Baessler, Stanley Daniels, Darlene and Bob Zechman, Diane Laine

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Carol Landes, Donna Drenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Harold & Fay Sausser, Ruth Brown, Kevin Seibert

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

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

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Linda Covert	Rabekah CdeBaca
Lectors	Conner Roeder	Greg Gross
Communion Assistants	Julie Coleman	Linda Covert
Ushers	Bill Shay Donald Nettles	Mike Sausser
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Danika Kuhar
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Ellayna Boyer	Rob Baessler
Lectors	Julie Coleman	Jill McCloy
Communion Assistants	Karen Ochenrider	Linda Covert
Ushers	Faith Batz John Macnutt	Greg Gross Noah & Luke Hale
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, Marie Shay	

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in celebration of our 43rd Anniversary on March 24th by Bob and Jill McCloy.

TUESDAY MORNING MEET AND GREET. To welcome Pastor Laine, all are invited to join him for coffee, tea, and a treat on Tuesday, March 29th, 2022 at 10:00 am in the church library. The side office door will be unlocked. Come share your ideas on what you would like to see happen with Jerusalem's Ministry.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER will once again be our Wednesday, Mid-week Lenten Services, from March 9 – April 6 at 6:30 PM. Our theme will be 'Praying With Others' in which a story concerning prayer will be told and then time taken to pray as a group. Join us for these Wednesday evening worships, which have become a meaningful part of our Lenten journey.

WEEKLY SOUP SUPPERS WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M. We hope that you will join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for "Bread, Bowl and Worship," a simple meal of bread and soup followed by worship in the sanctuary. Please sign the sheets at the sign-up center if you are able to contribute soup, bread, and other items of food needed for the five soup suppers. Volunteers to clean up after the soup suppers are also needed. Thanks.

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY worship services will be held on Sunday, April 10. We will have the Procession with Palm branches and the reading of the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. We will need readers to participate in the reading of the Passion gospel. If you would like to be part of this, see Pastor Jim Covert.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE WORSHIP will be held on Good Friday, April 15 at 6:30 pm. A Tenebrae is a worship where the church is gradually darkened as the service progresses. Tenebrae means darkness or shadow. We will need people to participate in the service, including readers of the seven last words of Jesus, someone to do some sound effects, someone to extinguish candles as the service progresses, and most of all, someone to operate the dimming of the lights. If you would be willing to help, see Pastor Jim Covert.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP – mark your calendars now!

- **Sunday, April 10th**, at 8:00am and 10:30am, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of PALMS gives way to his PASSION – the road to the cross.
- **April 14th, HOLY THURSDAY**, at 6:30pm, we hear that Jesus takes the towel of a servant to wash the feet of his disciples, then instead of a Last Supper, he initiates a First Communion.
- **April 15th, GOOD FRIDAY**, at 6:30pm we hear and participate in Jesus' journey to the cross.
- **Sunday, April 17th, EASTER DAY**, at 8:00am and 10:30am, we celebrate the light of the risen Christ, renew our baptismal vows, and in Word and Meal rejoice in Christ's forgiveness and life given for us.

ATTENTION WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS! Schedules for the month of April are available for pick up at the “Sign-up” Center in the church lobby. You can also download a copy from our website at jerusalem.lutheran.com (click the members tab). Thank you again for giving Jerusalem your time and helping worship run smoothly!

AN UPCOMING SPRING CONCERT. SAVE THE DATE! April 24, 2022 at 3:00pm, Clarinet and Piano concert featuring Dr. Steven Christ on Clarinet with Caleb Flick on Piano and Dr. Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson on Piano.

FREE SUMMER CLOTHING “GIVE AWAY”! St. John’s UCC in Schuylkill Haven is offering a summer clothing give away on April 23rd (rain date is April 30th) from 9:00 am til noon. If anyone would like to contribute clean, gently used clothing for this mission, the items can be dropped off at St. John’s Church on the corner of Dock Street and Main Street any Tuesday from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Or on March 29th, April 5th, or April 12th from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Thank you!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
9:15am Bell rehearsal
10:30am Worship

WEDNESDAY 5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Property Committee Meeting

STAFF AND LEADERS

The Rev. Larry Laine, *Pastor*

(757) 613-7126 (C) (610) 452-9051 (H)
pastorlaine@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Audrey Christ, *Music Director*

musicdirector@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families Ministries*

faithandfamilies@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator*

mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Jill McCloy, *Treasurer*

treasurer@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Karen Ochenrider, *Financial Secretary*

karenochenrider@comcast.net

Gina Cappel, *Child Care Director*

jccckids@jerusalem.lutheran.com

Mike Sausser, *Sexton*

linknomad@hotmail.com



Easter Lily Orders

Orders are being accepted from those who would like to adorn our church with the placement of Lilies or Tulips for Easter Sunday. The cost per plant for a lily is \$11.00 and the cost per plant for a tulip is \$9.25. All plants must be paid for through the Church Office. Please make checks out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Please fill out your order on this sheet. Make sure the Church Office receives your order and money by Monday, April 11th. Thanks!

NAME _____

NUMBER OF LILIES _____

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR

OF _____

Amount Enclosed _____



Food Donations

Inspired by the ELCA's Lenten study, "A way in the Wilderness", the Social Ministry Committee would like to encourage you to participate in your own Lenten discipline by giving weekly suggestions for you to enhance how you make your way through Lent.

Week 4: Transformed in the Wilderness

"The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year." (Joshua 5:12)

When the Hebrews were wandering in the wilderness and hungry, God saw their need and sent manna for them to eat. For 40 years God had provided manna, a miraculous food that appeared like dew on the ground every night. In the desert, manna had been necessary for survival.

Certainly the people's entrance into the Promised Land is not the end of their dependence on God. Their food may no longer miraculously fall from the sky, but a new miracle springs from the land God created and is nurtured by farmers who embody God's creative care. Eating their fill of manna was not the end but the means, allowing them to reach a place where they would thrive on "the crops of the land."

This week you are encouraged to donate canned goods and non-perishable food items to our Little Free Pantry and the Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry.