

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all 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

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21st, 2021

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemmlutheran.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

It is Well with My Soul
Jerusalem Handbell Choir

Arr. Bill Ingram

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.

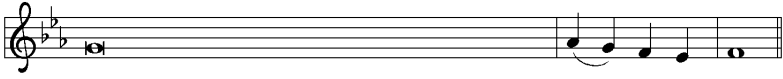
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



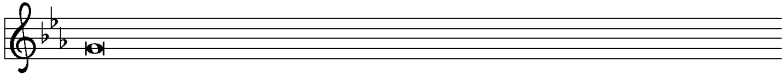
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



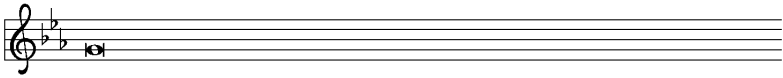
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The assembly inside is seated.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

The assembly inside stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World
Philip & Beverly Kriner, duet

John Stainer

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

Be Thou My Vision

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

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

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.*

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You love humanity which you have made in your image. During this pandemic, give strength to the weary, wisdom to those with responsibility, hope to the sick, and compassion to us for our sisters and brothers in Christ and for our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. 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.

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.

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

The Word of God Is Source and Seed

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- 1 The Word of God is source and seed;
it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your dark earth welcome warm;
root deep the grain God bent to sow.

Refrain

In the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice!

- 2 The Word of God is breath and life;
it comes to heal and wake and save.
So let the Spirit touch and mend
and rouse your dry bones from their grave. *Refrain*
- 3 The Word of God is flesh and grace,
who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.
So dare to be as Jesus was,
who came to live and love and die. *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 .Text © 1983, 1993 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Today, Communion Servers will be taking Holy Communion as an extension of the service to Mary and Phil Keil, Ken Noecker, Jane Deibert, Bonnie Foose, Lois "Jake" Hoffner, Lee Freed, and Barbara & Stanley Daniels.

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, Beryl Zulick, Jim Heisler, Cathy Covach-Hale

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 Stefichack, 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	Jim Covert
Ushers	Don Nettles	Frank Mahoney
	Noah Hale	Jane Mahoney
	Luke Hale	
Cantor(s)	Rebekah CdeBaca	Linda Covert
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Danika Kuhar
Video Recorder		Mary Rowe
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Lou Messina	Rob Baessler
Ushers	Faith Batz	Don Boyer
	Bill Shay	Frank Mahoney
	Conner Roeder	Jane Mahoney
Cantor(s)	Mary Rowe	Lloyd Wertz
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Rachel Kramer
Video Recorder		Joanne Wertz
Counters	Linda Collins & Rob Baessler	

WEEKLY NEWS

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTORS, Rebekah CdeBaca and Linda Covert!
Our pre-recorded anthem can be heard online and is sent to us by Beverly Kriner

SUNDAY SCHOOL for ages 3 through fifth grade will resume on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 9:15 AM. We look forward to seeing some of our younger sisters and brothers in Christ, especially as Holy Week begins. Children will maintain a social distance and wear masks.

FAITH AND FAMILIES MINISTRY will share the good news that Jesus has risen by holding a drive through Easter Event on Saturday, April 3rd from 10am – 11am. Please RSVP for the event by Wednesday, March 31st by visiting www.jerusalem.lutheran.com/members and clicking the link for “COVID FRIENDLY EASTER GOODIE BAGS.”

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP – mark your calendars now!

- March 28, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of PALMS gives way to his PASSION – the road to the cross.
- April 1, HOLY THURSDAY, 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 2, GOOD FRIDAY, we hear and participate in Jesus' journey to the cross in the Gospel of John.
- April 4, EASTER DAY, 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.

THE LAST HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER will be held this Wednesday, March 24th at 6:30. We have been lifting 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.

AN EASTER "ZOOM SOCIAL" will be held on Monday, April 5, at 7:00 PM. If you have the Zoom application on your computer, table, or smartphone, this will be an opportunity to enjoy some online fellowship and catch up with each other. As we have been forced by the virus either to distance ourselves from each other at in-person or parking lot worship, or to worship at home through recordings of the service, we have not been able to enjoy the fellowship conversations that so naturally take place before and after worship – but here's our chance! If you want to be part of the Zoom Social, then please email Rachel at the office (mail@jerusalemlutheran.com) or Pastor Rowe (pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com).

AFTER MUCH RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION, the church council recently decided to invest in an air purification system to upgrade our heating and air conditioning system. This addition makes ions (atoms with either an additional or a missing electron that then readily attaches to other atoms, particles, viruses, or bacteria) which destroy viruses and bacteria, and also cause much larger particles (like dust, pollen, and molds) to clump together to be more easily filtered out. Widely used by hospitals and schools, this method improves the quality of recirculating air, and reduces the danger of viruses like COVID-19 from being spread through the heating and air conditioning. While this will help lower this type of spread, it does not take away person to person transmission (so we still will need to wear masks and not sing), nor will it prevent spreading through common surfaces (so we still need to wash and sanitize hands). What this will do, is make the recirculation of air less prone to spread viruses, which is especially important in a building like ours where opening windows as recommended by the CDC lets only a small amount of fresh air in, and at the same time decreases the efficiency of our HVAC system. The cost of the project is just over \$8,000 to upgrade all three units, and the money will be taken out of our savings. Council is taking this step to lessen one means of COVID-19 transmission in order to care for our worship, learning, childcare, and other ministry and community gatherings.

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 worshipping 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: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Resuming_Care-filled_Worship_and_Sacramental_Life.pdf)
- www.covidactnow.org, the website referred to in the ecumenical guidelines as a standard, simple, and reliable source for information

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY	8:00am Worship 9:15am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship
TUESDAY	1:00pm COVID-19 Meeting (Via Zoom) 6:00pm Child Care Staff Meeting (Via Zoom) 7:00pm Sch. Haven Council of Churches meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting
THURSDAY	6:30pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting