

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Our Mission

St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.

Adopted December 8, 2013

Serving Today

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr.
Judy Ferree
Matthew Riland
Carol and Mike Hubler
Abby Adams and Briana Radel
Barry Williard
Barry and Kim Williard
Joshua Paul

Pastor
Organist
Holy Communion Assistant
Altar Guild Preparation
Acolytes
Lector
Greeters
Council President

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Gathering in Silence

*Psalm: 51:1-17

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*Gospel Acclamation (spoken in unison):

WE ARE TURNING, LORD, TO HEAR YOU; YOU ARE MERCIFUL AND KIND – SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN BLESSING, AND WITH LOVE TO US INCLINED. (Pg. 205)

*Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Response after the reading is announced: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

Response after the reading is concluded: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Invitation to Lent:

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Confession of Sin:

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

P: Most holy and merciful God,

C: WE CONFESS TO YOU AND TO ONE ANOTHER, AND BEFORE THE WHOLE COMPANY OF HEAVEN, THAT WE HAVE SINNED BY OUR FAULT, BY OUR OWN FAULT, BY OUR OWN MOST GREIVIOUS FAULT, IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and our prejudice and content toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: HEAR US, O GOD, FOR YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

Imposition of Ashes:

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: AMEN.

(Those who desire to receive ashes as a sign of repentance, come forward following the prayer. File out your pew, forming a line in the aisle. After you have received the ashes, return to your pew. Before coming forward and/or when you return to your pew, you are invited to read and meditate on Psalm 90)

*Conclusion of Confession of Sin:

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: THAT WE MAY SHOW FORTH YOUR GLORY IN THE WORLD.

P: By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: BRING US WITH ALL YOUR SAINTS TO THE JOY OF HIS RESSURECTION.

P: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: AMEN

*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts (in silence)

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our savior and Lord.

C: **AMEN.**

We Share in God's Supper

*Words of Institution

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right

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We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (in silence)

*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN.**

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

*Benediction and Dismissal:

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

A: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **WE WILL! THANKS BE TO GOD!**

*Hymn #629 "Abide with Me"

*Departure in Silence

*Please stand, if able.

On upcoming Wednesday evenings during Lent, the Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations of the Berrysburg and Elizabethville area will again join together for worship **and, for the first time since 2019, a light supper**. The supper, consisting of simple items like soup and sandwiches, will begin at **6:15 P.M.** Following supper, at **7:00 P.M.**, we will join in worship. Worship will end before 8:00 P.M. Once again this year, the host pastor of each congregation will lead the worship, while the pastors will each take turns preaching in a congregation other than their own. Our theme for this year's Lenten series will be **The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross**. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

Date	Host Congregation	Preacher/Subject
March 1	St. John	Deacon Ken Campbell "Father, Forgive Them"
March 8	Peace United Church of Christ, Berrysburg	Pastor Bill Romberger "Today, You Will Be With Me"
March 15	Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville	Pastor Ray Holland "My God, Why Have Forsaken Me?"
March 22	Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethville	<i>Pastor Tom</i> "Woman, Here Is Your Son", "I Thirst"
March 29	Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville	Pastor Su Rider "It Is Finished", "Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit"

Please don't miss these opportunities to have your faith refreshed and deepened, as we journey together through the Season of Lent. May God bless us as we once again make our way along this pathway that leads to the Cross!