St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 18, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader

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“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With un_failure love I have drawn you to myself.”
Jeremiah 31:3
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 light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations,
who gives breath to us all.

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

Loving God,
we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.
Forgive us for the times
we have spoken or acted too quickly;
we have not spoken or acted at all;
we have hurt those closest to us;
we have hurt those we have yet to know;
we have thought more about ourselves than others;
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God’s love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now:
Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ✝ Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN  (ELW p. 595)  Jesus Loves Me!
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  (ELW page 175 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW page 177 in Setting 7, at the front of the hymnal)

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.

Oh Dios, con el amor firme nos atraes a ti mismo, y en la misericordia recibles nuestras oraciones. Fortalecenos para sacar adelante los frutos del espíritu, que a través de la vida y la muerte podamos vivir en tu hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con vosotros y con el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amen.

The assembly is seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:  Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It 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. 33 But 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. 34 No 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51:1-12

R Create in me a clean heart, O God.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

5 Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

6 Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice. R

9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

5 Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

6 as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. §Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; §and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, §designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.
Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus’ words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very 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. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever 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. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ!
The assembly is seated.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: John 12:20-33

SERMON
Rev. Arden G. Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW p. 338) Beneath the Cross of Jesus
NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world’s decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill, especially Elvira, Layton, Alex, James, Lorain, Pauline, Roxanne, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Matilda, Michael, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Barbara, Justin, Ella, Khloe, Jim, Charles, Eli, Casey, Steve, Marlane, Yvonne, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you

Meal
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY HYMN (ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Barmherziger Gott, empfangen das Opfer unser Lob und Danksagung und das Angebot von unserem Leben, nach dem Weg des Kreuzes, können wir wissen, dass die Freude der Auferstehung; durch Christus, unseren Herrn. Amen.
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

Amen.
DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration


For those in the military: Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Birthdays: Viona Stolle (Mar 20), Lorraine Erler (Mar 21), Cody Huwe (Mar 23)

Anniversaries: Jake & Holly Polasek (Mar 22), Nolan & Mary Louise Jonas (Mar 26)

Looking Ahead!

Each Wednesday in Lent

Soup and Sandwich Fellowship: 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study: 6:20 p.m.
Worship: 7:00 p.m.
HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

March 25, 10:30 am        Palm Sunday Worship
March 29, 7:00 pm        Maundy Thursday Worship
March 30, 7:00 pm        Good Friday Worship
April 1, 10:30 am       Easter Celebration Worship

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Women present the 13th annual

Spring Fling
Style Show & Bazaar
Benefiting The American Cancer Society – Karnes County Relay For Life

March 24, 2018
2-4 PM
Doors open at 1 PM for shopping.

Entertainment by:
John Hanson “Legends in Time”

Tickets - $15 Donation
Please contact Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 830-583-2285
to get tickets or for information.

ConocoPhillips Meeting Facility
located at the corner of CR 344 and FM 792
Kenedy, Tx 78119
Use the entrance marked “Guest Parking”. We will be in the building at the back.