**Lent 2- february 25, 2024- zion, Philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**ANNOUNCMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024.

Lenten worship continues to take place Feb 28 at noon at Manheim Mennonite church and Feb 29th at 5:30 at Trinity, NH.

The Annual World Day of Prayer service takes place Friday March 1 at St James NE at 1:00. All are invited to attend this meaningful service provided by the women of Palestine.

I will be on holidays from Mar 1-8. Pastor Tanya will be providing Pastoral care. Her number is in the bulletin or call Trinity Lutheran church and leave a message.

Next Sunday is Action Sunday- please bring some ingredients for soup making, cut up and semi cooked would be appreciated. If you have any empty jars to fill with soup, bring those as well.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – Rev. Brooklynn Lane**

Three in one God, Creator, Child, and Holy Spirit,☩ We give thanks for your mercy and ask for forgiveness. Amen. *Silent reflection*

Loving God,

**Forgive us. We have neglected to see the face of Christ in our neighbour. We have walked past the person begging on the street and neglected to recognize their humanity. We have become estranged from humanity, forgetting the web of life connects us all.**

**Forgive us. We are quick to anger, to cast judgement, and our words pierce like swords when we speak from these places. We let fear, doubt, and unknowingness guide our actions.**

**Forgive us. We confess are self-centeredness, need to succeed, and capitalistic-like thinking has turned us from you and your message of justice and love.**

**Forgive us.God who meets us in the face of each person we meet. Who paints the sky with colours that calm the soul, Who creates a soundscape of rushing rivers,**

**Who gives grace to the world through the winds of the Holy Spirit.**

**Open our hearts to be transformed and changed.**

You are forgiven. Through the love of Jesus Christ, in the name of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. Baptism remains forever. God’s love is here! Inspiring God, guide us to be agents of change, knowing that our decisions, our actions and inactions affect all people. Help us to have the courage and strength to move forward, to let our hearts and minds be overflowing with love, grace, and a deep awareness that you are with us, guiding us on the journey. Compassionate God, Three in one.☩. **Amen**

**GATHERING SONG*O Word of God Incarnate* (ELW 514)**

1 O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.

2 The church from you, dear Master,  
received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted  
o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
still guides, O Christ, to you.  
  
3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,  
a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations  
your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see you face to face.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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 p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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**

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

**FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

A reading from Genesis.

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah’s womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God’s promise.*

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. 7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”  
 15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31**

23You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.  
  Stand in awe of the Lord, all you off-spring of Israel.  
 24**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them;** **but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.**  
 25From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
  I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
 26**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
  **Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!**  
 27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
  all the families of nations shall bow before God.  
 28**For dominion belongs to the Lord,** **who rules over the nations.**  
 29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
  all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- **|** fore the Lord.  
 30**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,** **whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
 31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

A reading from Romans.

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

13The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” 19He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. 20No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 23Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, 24but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

31[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”  
 34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (ELW 802)**

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.  
  
2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.  
  
3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members;  
where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly,  
living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
life eternal grant to me.

**CREED (ELW p. 217)**

With the whole church let us confess our faith of the Apostles Creed,

**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**

Our sung prayer response is hymn 751, Oh Lord Hear My Prayer.

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. We sing,

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth’s waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. We sing,

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. We sing,

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved *especially* Vivian, Chris, Elizabeth, Zoli, Felix, Jill, Doug, Teresa, our members in long term care, Robert, Bea, Evelyn and Rob and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts *( good pause). .* We sing,

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ’s sacrificial love. We sing,

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. We sing,

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERtory (ELW p. 217)- *Create in Me a Clean Heart # 186***  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts, receive our offerings in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Open our hearts to serve and love your beloved children in the name of Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today. While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater. Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the community declaring, “The kingdom of God has come near.” Embolden us with the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**The Maori LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the Maori’s Lord’s prayer found in your bulletin.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,

and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Faith of Our Fathers (alternate text)* (ELW 813)**

1 Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.  
  
2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real.  
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.  
  
3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright.  
Faith for today, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.  
  
4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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