

Third Sunday after Epiphany



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 27, 2019

Service of the Word

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.

123 South Seventh Street

St. Clair, Michigan

810-329-2174

Rev. Ken Staib, Pastor
586-648-6955 home
stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net

January 27, 2019
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Marilyn Tackaberry, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG *Arise Your Light Has Come*

ELW 314

GREETING

KYRIE

ELW p. 213

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 213

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And

Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the
world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end
of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion |

over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 216

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

ELW 656

CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church. Empower bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, evangelists, and all members of Christ's body with your Spirit. Open our hearts to hear your word of life and respond in lives of service. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the earth. For all creatures of the land, air, and water. Heal environments damaged by disaster or pollution. Make us wise stewards of all you have entrusted into our care. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Liberate us from our captivity to fear and ways of violence. Free those who are unjustly imprisoned and those who are imprisoned for working for freedom. Give us vision to seek the pathways of peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Rescue those who suffer abuse or neglect. Bring an end to hunger and greed. Accompany those who are alone or vulnerable. Comfort those who grieve and all who are ill. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who proclaim your word and those who teach. Bless those whose talents are not recognized, and teach us to honor the gifts of all your people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for congregations of the Southeast Michigan Synod. Inspire us to share your love with the diverse communities in which we are located. Unite us to work together for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have gone before us in the faith. Wipe away all tears and bring us with them into the joy of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING *As with Gladness Men of Old* v.1,3 **ELW 302**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *We All Are One in Mission* **ELW 576**

DISMISSAL

SERVING TODAY: Greeter: Anna Fisher; Ushers: Dick Eisen & Carl Eisen; Acolyte: Lainey Donaldson; Scripture Reader: Chris Ritter; Projectionist: Mark Fisher

MONEY COUNTERS: Katy & Alan Emerich

ATTENDANCE: Saturday, 10; Sunday 88

IN NEED OF PRAYER Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Louis Eisen, Loretta Lukasak, Elizabeth MacDonald, Sharon Ann Wheeler, Adeline Harsch, Pat Greenwood, Patricia Jones, Marc Dease, Stacey Yax, Ruth Morris, Bernie Nummer, Carole Stiefvater, Ed Myers, Jeremy Bryan, James Mitchell, Marlene Hand, Kenneth Eisen, Connie Felstow, Linda Leist, George Eisen, Todd Schwehofer. (Please call or email the office at stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net to update information.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Confirmation, 6:30 pm	No Choir	Pastors' day off	Worship, Communion 5 pm	Sunday School, Worship, CJ Clark, Communion 9:30 am Tim Horton's 10:30 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome those who are visiting with us. Please take time to sign the registration book or the guest register in the lobby and introduce yourself to Pastor Ken. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and our congregation warm and receptive. We are glad that you are here.

DVD copies of the 9:30 a.m. worship service can be produced for those who are shut-in or others who would like a copy. Let us know in advance if there is a service that you would like recorded.

C. J. Clark is the executive director at Living Water Ministries, which puts out programs such as camp, the Great Lakes Gathering (for high school students), and Charge (for middle school students). He will be in worship on February 3 and then available to meet with youth and parents after worship to answer any questions about any of the Living Water Ministries events.

February 10 is the Sunday School Valentine's Day party. After worship on that same day, we will get together to show love to our neighbors. All are invited to help tie fleece blankets to be donated so that those who need extra warmth this winter can receive it. The only skill required to make these blankets is to tie a knot. Even if you can stay for 10 minutes the help is appreciated.

The Fellowship/Outreach Committee will meet February 10 after the worship service. We will organize the lunch for the congregational talent/variety show on March 10.

The next Ladies' Lunch outing will be at noon on February 13 at *Black and Bleu BBQ* in St. Clair. Sign up in the lobby if you plan to attend.

ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform County and Evacuate) is a national program which deals with active threat encounters. We will offer ALICE Training, Saturday, February 23 at 10 am. Adults and teens are welcome (6th grade and up). Please be aware that the nature of this training is to discuss violence and dangerous situations and how our reactions can help minimize the danger and damage. This training will focus on discussion but may include some role play situations. Please RSVP to the church office or to Katy Emerich at (810)824-0495.

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to go to Wittenberg and Capital Universities February 22-24. We will meet at the church at 12:30 on Friday, February 22. If you are interested in going please see Pastor Joyce for details.

St. Peter's is hosting a Scrapbook Crop on March 2 to benefit Youth and Family Ministries. The cost to rent a table is \$35 if you register before February 1, and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you would like to rent a table, contact Pastor Joyce. See the flier in the lobby for details.

The February newsletter is in your mailbox today.