

# Third Sunday in Lent



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 24, 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  
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Rev. Ken Staib, Pastor  
586-648-6955 home  
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March 24, 2019  
Third Sunday in Lent  
Marilyn Tackaberry, organist

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**ELW 338**

**GREETING**

**KYRIE**

**ELW p. 213**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where  
there | is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

**<sup>8</sup>My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Return to the Lord, your God*

**ELW p. 216**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**ELW 779**

## **CREED**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

Holy God, build up the body of Christ and cause the gifts of your Spirit to grow among us. Lead us to recognize your saving work in our lives and in our world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Water the earth with gentle rains and melting snow. Provide clean water for drinking, washing, and nourishing plants that will bear fruit for your creatures. Rescue those whose lives have been affected by destructive floodwaters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Uphold people who speak your righteousness in the face of religious or political persecution. Receive martyrs like Oscar Romero, whom the church commemorates today, into your everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Provide relief for those suffering and in pain, especially those on our prayer list, and those we name before you in our hearts. Grant wisdom to health care workers, and bring healing to patients. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity, and keep us from making hasty judgments about others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nourish the faith of all your people. We pray especially for middle school youth and their adult leaders at the Charge! youth gathering. Make your presence known to them as they worship, learn, serve, and play together. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Knit together the communion of saints, and bind us to Christ, our head. Through the diversity of gifts present in our communities, help us to faithfully follow his example. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING**

**ELW p. 219**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG *Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

**ELW 733**

**DISMISSAL**

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**SERVING TODAY:** Greeter: Mary Beaudua; Ushers: Jon Jones & Jerry Hall; Scripture Reader: Mary Alice Schlegel; Projectionist: Mark Fisher

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Karen Boden & Bob Coffey

**ATTENDANCE:** Saturday 27; Sunday 113

**ANNIVERSARY:** 3/23 Karl & Karren Schneider 41 years

## 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.

Midweek Lenten services continue every Wednesday at 7 pm. The theme for March 27 is *"Cultivating Abundant Life."*

There will be an Attic and Bake Sale meeting on Monday, March 25 at 9 am in the church basement. Anyone who is interested in helping with this event in any way is more than welcomed to attend.

We are taking orders for lilies and mums that will decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Envelopes are in your mailboxes today. The cost is \$8.

The weekend worship services on March 30 and 31 will feature the Service of Oils and Healing. As a part of this service, the Oils of Healing are placed on the foreheads of worshippers as a reminder that all healing, physical, spiritual and emotional, comes from God and is exemplified in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. You are encouraged to attend these special healing services and to invite family and friends who may welcome the healing power of God.

The scholarship committee reminds the congregation that scholarship funds are available for college, post-graduate and trade schools. The application form is in the office. The scholarship amount is \$500 for members and \$200 for non-members. The deadline for applications is April 30th. If you have any questions contact one of the committee members: Mike Morenko, Dawn Lambrecht, and Nancy Green.

Tickets for the May 19 baseball game at Jimmy John's Field are on sale and will be sold until April 28. Tickets are \$35 each for people ages 4 and up. Included in your ticket price is \$10 coming back to St. Peter Youth Group, a buffet of hot dogs, BBQ pulled pork, grilled chicken breasts, potato chips, fruit salad, pasta salad and cookies, unlimited soda, lemonade, ice tea and water, two drink tickets per adult for beer or wine, a group photo on the field, autographs from the players, "Chalk talk" with a team coach or player, a greeting on Scoreboard, a meet & greet with the mascots, kids run the bases after the game, an opportunity to participate in holding a 30' x 60' American flag on the field during the National Anthem, an opportunity to throw an Honorary 1st Pitch, and free parking. We will be seated close to the kids' zone and whiffle ball field. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Joyce. There is a signup sheet in the lobby.

Nerf War- After a long winter we are all eager to get outside. On Sunday, April 28 bring your nerf guns and we'll spend some time outside playing. Don't worry about nerf darts, we have those. However, please bring \$5 per person to pay for pizza.

The annual St. Peter's Attic and Bake Sale will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> this year. If anyone wishes to donate, please put items in the large room in the church basement. Items must be clean and saleable; please no computer equipment or large appliances. Anyone who wishes to help with the sale in any capacity is welcomed. Any questions, please call Jennifer at 329-9656.

The Fellowship/Outreach committee will meet Sunday, April 7 after church. We will discuss the Easter baskets we plan to donate to our Outreach families with funds left from our Christmas baskets. Thank you to our generous church family! We will also talk about the June 9 picnic at Greig Park.

VBS is scheduled for July 15-17, 9:30 am -12 pm. We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, we need to know by April 1 to decide whether to move forward with planning. Any questions see Pastor Joyce.

Sunday school pancake breakfast- after worship on Sunday, April 14 (Palm Sunday) the Sunday school will be hosting a pancake breakfast. The tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 3-14, and free for ages 2 and under. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or that day. All proceeds will benefit the Sunday school.

Renee Evans has been faithfully serving St. Peter's as church secretary, but has decided it is time to retire. (She will continue playing organ and directing choir). As a result, St. Peter's is now seeking applicants for an office administrator. A job description and application are available in the office. For additional information, please see Katy Emerich or Pastor Ken.

Youth group night- on April 24, middle school and high school students and their parents are invited to young's funeral home. This is a required event for confirmation students. If you have any questions see Pastors Ken or Joyce.

**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, Jeremy Bryan, James Mitchell, Marlene Hand, Kenneth Eisen, Connie Felstow, Linda Leist, George Eisen, Alan Freed, Jack & Char Boulier, Len Rose. (Please call or email the office at [stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net) to update information.)

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S**

| Wednesday   | Friday              | Saturday                    | Sunday                         |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Prayer 9:30 am<br>Bible Study 10 am<br>Lenten Service 7 pm<br>Choir 7:30 pm | Pastors'<br>day off | Healing<br>Service,<br>5 pm | Healing<br>Service,<br>9:30 am |