

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving Absecon - Galloway Township
Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor
Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, March 6th, 2022
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT / 10:00 AM

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come all who are lost and in pain. God calls to you.

P: Lord, lift us from our fears and sorrows; bring us close to you.

(Soloist sings "You Are Mine.")

L: Come all who have lost hope, who feel that there is nothing worth living for.

P: Lord, clear away our blindness that we may see the light of your love.

(Soloist sings "You Are Mine.")

L: Come, do not despair. God is calling your name.

P: We want to be ready for this journey. Help us, Lord. Make us ready to trust you.

Amen

***CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In **+** Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

* OPENING SONG

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13 (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

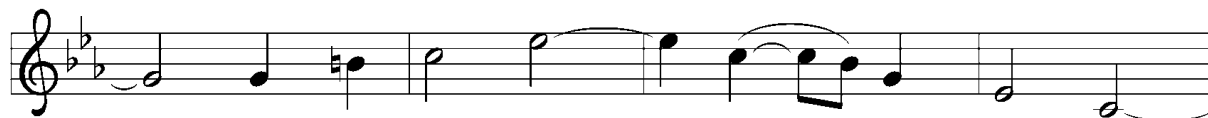
*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

...song continues...



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

*** THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 4:1-13**

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Out in the Wilderness



1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
 2 Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 3 An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
 4 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.



when the Spir - it says, "Go," you can't say, "No."
 though you try to be strong, it's been so long.
 you are far . . . from home where wild things roam.
 When you were . . . bap - tized, you re - a - lized



You lis - ten for the voice when you're bend - ed low;
 He whis - pers in your ear and you know he's wrong;
 There's dan - ger ev - 'ry - where but you're not a - lone;
 you'd heard the voice of God from the o - p'ning skies:

driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.
 an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.
 "You are my be - lov - ed" out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech
 Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech
 Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

* APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died (*especially*). Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom (*especially*). As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace,

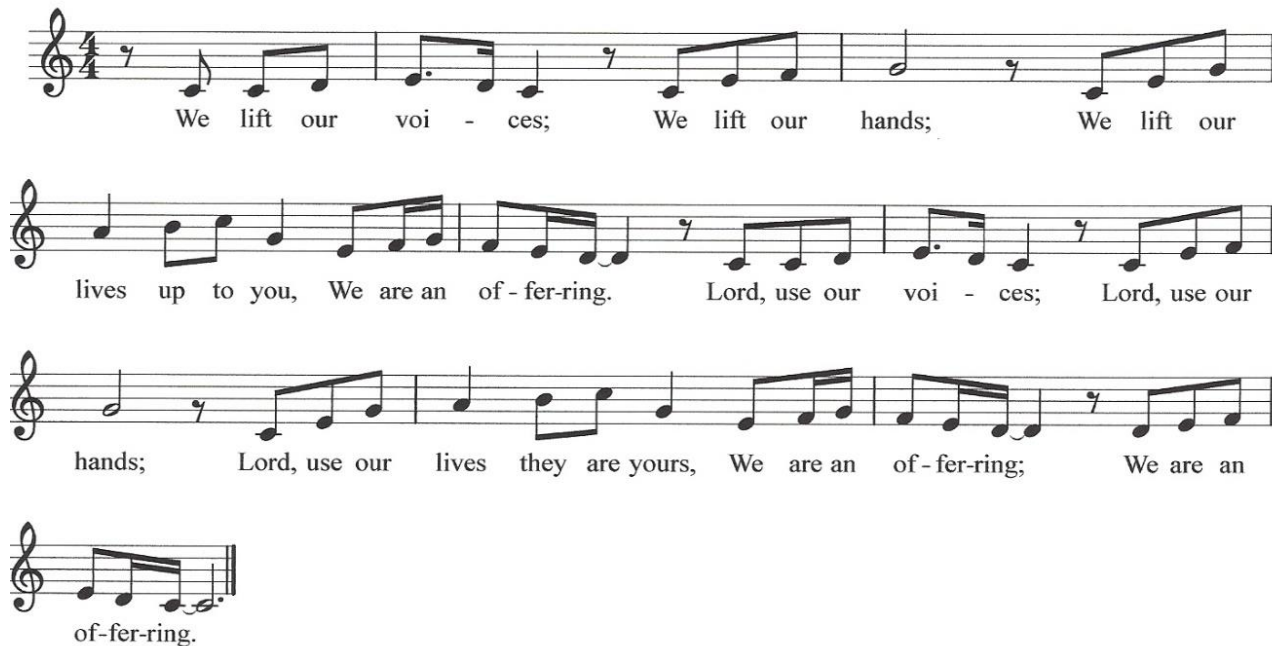
hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an
of-fer-ring.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

*** THE 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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

* POST COMMUNION HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

Amen.

* BLESSING

And now a blessing: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

*** CLOSING SONG**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*** SENDING**

Go in peace. Jesus meets us on the way.

Thanks be to God.