

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021 - 10:00 AM

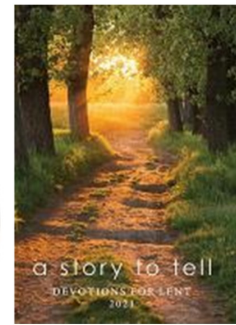
Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.



LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!



"...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!" (Mark 5:19)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - TEMPLE TALK

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Fountain of living water,

People: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

People: **Amen.**

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory; Text: John Bowring Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



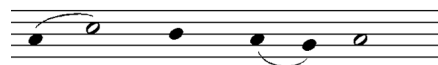
Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



A - men.

Pastor: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast
in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to Sanctuary worship, to the Parking Lot Worship, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the World Hunger 40 Days of Giving.

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Christ is lead-ing us ...
For-ward in faith!

Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)
Keepin' our eyes on Jesus,
We're runnin' the race!

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Set a Fire"

No place I would rath - er be, _ no place I would rath - er be, _
no place I would rath - er be ___ than here in Your love, here in Your love. ___
So set a fire _ down in my soul _ that I can't con - tain _ and I can't con - trol. _
_ I want more _ of You _____ God; _ I want more _ of You _____ God. _

"Set a Fire" words and music by Will Reagan
CCLI Song #5911299 © 2010 United Pursuit Music
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FIRST READING

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20:1-17)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

Lector: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**People: One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Lector: Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**People: 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.**

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

**People: 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.**

Lector: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**People: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

Lector: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

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

Lector: By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

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

Lector: Above 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.

**People: Let 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

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. (John 2:13-22)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Carl Taylor



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*Canticle of the Turning; Text: Rory Cooney; Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish Traditional
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APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. We pray especially for: *Ed Brennan; Ann Lynn Caughman; Debbie Smith; Charles Kauffman; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Beverly Donahue; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; the Carter family; the Vautrain/Lawicki family; Bob Halliday; Bill Winslow; Joseph Wehner; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for *Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs whom we commemorate today*, as well as all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: In these days of ongoing pandemic, we continue to pray for ..., let us pray.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

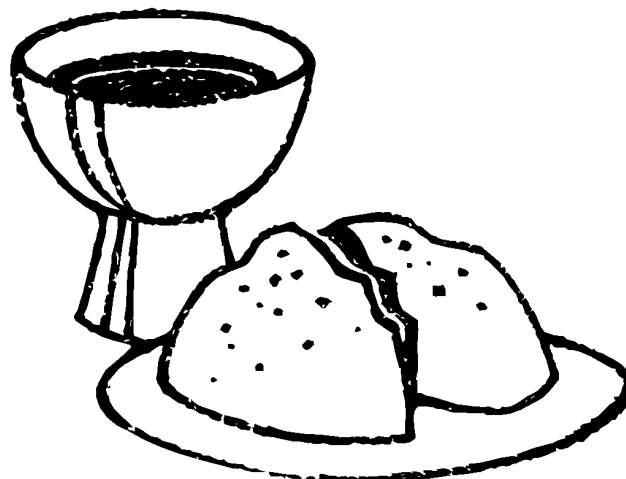
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ thought the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"I Am the Bread of Life "

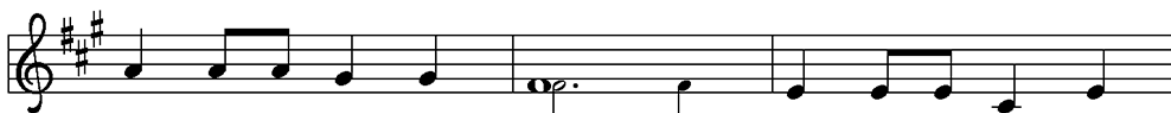
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 you are the Christ, the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 Son of God, who have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain

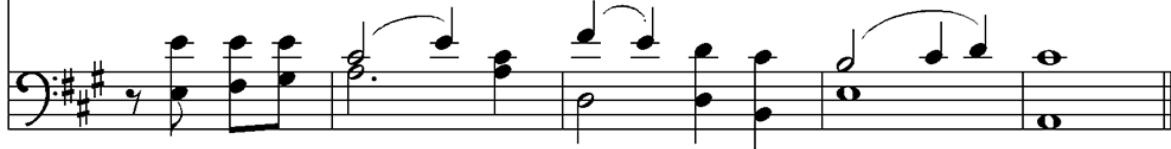
All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."



LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **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.**

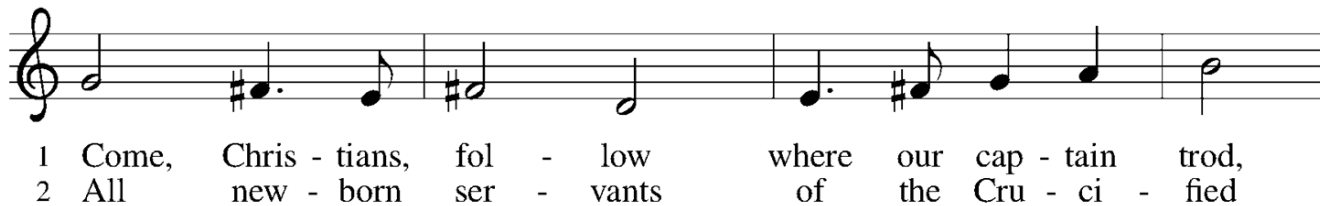
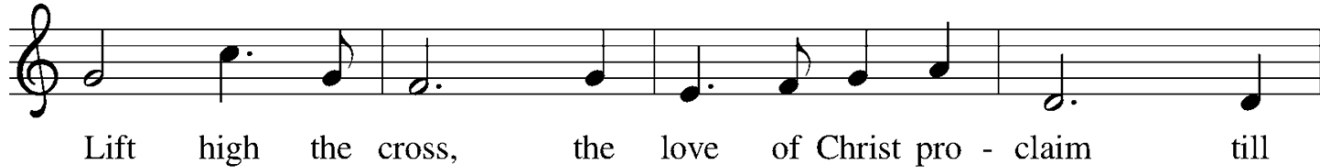
BENEDICTION

Pastor: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

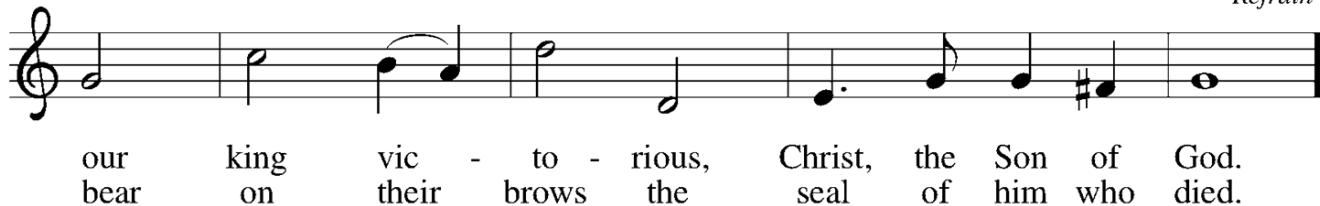
People: **Amen**

SENDING SONG

"Lift High the Cross"



Refrain



*Lift High the Cross; Text: George W. Kitchin, rev. Michael R. Newbolt Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson
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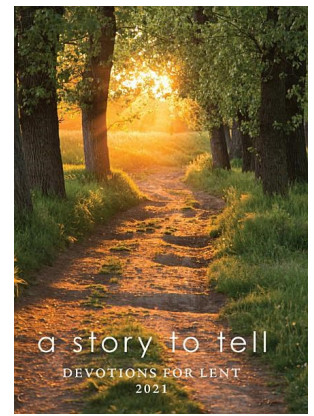
DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. You have a story to tell - God is love!

People: **Thanks be to God.**



LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!



MID-DAY LENTEN WORSHIP
Tuesdays @ 12:00, Feb. 23 - Mar. 23

LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
Wednesdays @ 6:00, Feb. 24 - Mar. 24

SPECIAL LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS
(meet virtually)
& ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

"A Story to Tell"
Daily Lenten Devotions
"God Is Love"
Pocket/Bag Medallions
+++

5:19 Daily Prayer Alerts
(Mark 5:19 — "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!")





Additional
Lenten Devotional Resources:
Families - "With Your Whole Heart"
Children - "Were You There?"
Teens - "Lent-stagram"



FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK "FISH FRY" - FISHIN' FELLAS
LS Parking Lot, 5:00-7:00
February 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26
\$2000 goal for USC Campus Ministry

40 X 40

Give ~~Up~~ Something = 1600!

Lap Blankets/
Shawls


Paper Products

Cereal
Apple Sauce
Fruit Cups
Juice



40 Days of Giving Hunger Calendars

We invite you to **study, pray, reflect** and **give** with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.



ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS of Giving

**MID-DAY WORSHIP (WITH COMMUNION)
TUESDAYS @ 12:00, FEB. 23 - MAR. 23**

**LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00, FEB. 24 - MAR. 24**
In-Person (sanctuary) & live-streamed (YouTube & Facebook)
This Wednesday - Paralyzed Man, Mark 2:1-12

LENTEN 5:19 PRAYER ALERTS

During Lent, we are sending out daily "prayer alerts," with the prayer and scripture from each day's devotion. Alerts will be sent out at 5:19 PM, reminding us of Mark 5:19: "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!"

"A Story to Tell" Daily Devotion Books and "God is Love" Pocket/Bag Medallions are being distributed today or stop by the office during the week. Additional Lenten Devotional Resources:

Families - "With Your Whole Heart"

Children - "Were You There?"

Teens - "Lent-stagram"



LENTEN FISH FRY

**Feb. 19 Through Mar. 26
5 pm - 7 pm.**

Because safety is our main priority and we are not able to socialize in the fellowship hall, the fish fry will be available through Fishin' Fellas, a food truck stationed in Blythewood that many of you are probably already familiar with. Of course, the fellowship, tired bodies, sore feet and entertainment will be greatly missed by all our many workers who made it possible for our success. *The price of \$10 for each adult meal at Fishin' Fellas is a choice of: Flounder & a side; 10 ct. Shrimp & a side; Shrimp Taco & a side; or Fish (Flounder) Taco and a side. Sides: Fried Okra, Hush puppies; or Fries (adult meals include a water). Kids add-on: 4 ct. Shrimp & a side (\$5). The truck will be parked on our property every Friday in Lent (order directly from your vehicle), starting Feb. 19 and ending the Friday before Easter week Mar. 26. Time will be 5 pm - 7 pm.*

LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUP GATHERINGS!

Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. It is a time for listening to God and for contemplation. It is also a time for sharing how we see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives...how the Spirit tugs us to be disciples of Jesus. Everyone has been assigned to a Lenten Group that will gather virtually 1-2 times. Pastor Eric led a group with our Discipleship Leaders - it was very powerful to get to know each other and reflect on our call to be followers of Jesus. We each have a story to tell! You should be contacted by a Group Leader with a GoogleMeet link, but if not (or if you have a friend who would like to join), please feel free to contact the leader for a gathering that works for you (or call the office):

Monday, 3/8 @ 6:30pm - contact Lexanne/Scott Graves

Sunday, 3/14 @ 4pm - "Makeup session" Google Meet

Sunday, 3/16 @ 12:45pm - "Makeup session" in sanctuary

Sunday, 3/18 @ - contact Dee/Jim Glander

Sunday, 3/21 @ 3pm - contact Karen Kranz/Jeff Lummel

Sunday, 3/28 @ 5pm - contact Adam Woodruff/Angie Dyches

2nd Gathering TBA (youth focus) - contact Leslie Bloss

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Raegan Prest

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Steve Bloss

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Brantley/Aaron Smith

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Steve/Kathryn Padgett

40X40



40X40 LENTEN COLLECTION

Small blankets (shawls, lap blankets) for local nursing homes; paper goods (paper towels, napkins) for homeless shelter and Palmetto Place; and backpack individual food items (cereal, applesauce/fruit cups, juice). A basket is available in the admin building. Our goal is $40 \times 40 = 1600$ total items.

BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

Would you like to help with packing the bags for our backpack program? Signup Genius has the schedule for the remainder of the school year. Two to three people can pack at a time or maybe you would like to do it as a family project? Contact Karen Kranz for details or questions. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack>.



HOPE MINISTRY PROJECT – CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

In support of patient’s families of children who are undergoing treatment at the Children’s Cancer & Blood Disorder unit on the 5th floor of Prisma Children’s Hospital, Living Springs is providing 24 meals on the third Thursday of each month. The meals are being delivered by our own LS members at Carolina Deli. Many of these families face the challenge of financial difficulties because of extensive medical expenses, missing work, longing to stay at the hospital with their children. To personalize this project, it will be an added comfort to include cards, pictures, poems with thoughts of comfort, words of encouragement, a handmade crochet or knitted square with an embroidered heart, etc.!! You can drop your cards or other care items off at the church on a continuing basis by the third Thursday and we will see they get delivered each month.



YEAR-END GIVING SUMMARIES

Giving Summaries and Thank-You’s are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). For questions or corrections, contact Bill Franck at bfranck@sc.rr.com.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2021 envelopes boxes are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). Please pick up your box and use your envelopes throughout the year. If you do not find a box assigned to you, please contact Bill Franck and he will get you a box. Children’s offering envelopes are not assigned. However, if your children want envelopes, please take a box, record your child’s name and the box number.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: *God's Love Is Not for Sale*

The trouble isn't that there are people buying and selling animals and exchanging money in the temple. Those things have always happened in the temple. No one is being corrupt; no one is getting rich. These are facets of temple life that exist to uphold God's law.

The trouble is that something has gone haywire: we have allowed our experience of the marketplace to shape the way we see God; if I give God this, God will give me that. Instead of God informing our understanding of the marketplace, it has come to be the other way around. Jesus has come to turn this haywire understanding on its head.

In the face of trouble, promising to give God something as a down payment will not make God any more likely to come to your aid. God has already come and made a home with you in your trouble.

In the face of death, bargaining with God will not attract God's favor for you, because God is already there. Your death is forever wedded to Christ's death, and likewise your resurrection to his resurrection.

In the face of helplessness, negotiating with God for help is useless because God was your helper long before you even asked.

Do you see? God's love is not to be bought or sold, only given freely and lavishly, even to those who could never pay if they wanted to.

As a result, the body of Christ today, the church, sets out to live in ways that are unfathomable to the modern-day market. We spend our communal life on hungry people who will never be able to invite us to their own tables, and on children who cannot contribute to our offering plate, on dying people who after receiving our most prized treasures are not there to enjoy them. Our life is senseless lived by the rules of the marketplace. Thanks be to God that Christ comes to overturn it.

Looking Ahead ... Starting MARCH 14

**** Full Congregation Worship: Sundays @ 10:30 ****

You choose the option with which you're most comfortable @ 10:30

Sanctuary *(Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)*

Lawn *(Bring Your Chair, Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)*

Vehicle *(Participate via Parking Lot Transmitter, 87.9FM, without face coverings)*

Online *(service will still be posted/streamed on YouTube, Facebook)*

Ongoing Additional Sanctuary Option: Sundays @ 8:15

(Spaced Seating; Face Coverings)

Ongoing Midweek Lent (sanctuary) - Tuesday @ 12; Wednesday @ 6pm

(Spaced Seating & Face Coverings; Wednesday @ 6pm is also live-streamed!)

March Book of the Month: Gospel of Mark