

Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025
10:15 AM
Communion
Theme: Faith & Works

Intro Paragraph for bulletin:

In many translations, Jesus says that “Mary has chosen the better part,” which has been used to create a divide between Mary and Martha. However, in the Greek, Mary has chosen the “good portion,” and Martha’s tasks are called “ministry.” Therefore, perhaps Mary represents our faith, our desire to know God intimately, and Martha represents our good works, our desire to transform the world. Both are needed, and both are good.

+ GATHERING +

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

PRELUDE I Am Coming to the Cross – Van Denman Thompson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come as you are.

If you have deep faith

or your faith has run dry,

if you know every scripture
or none at all,

if you have calloused hands

and live your faith through good works,

or if you kneel at God’s feet,
with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

This is God’s house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.

HYMN ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

GREETING

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—and everything in between. Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

Let us pray:

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way.

Amen.

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.

When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.

When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows.

You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve.

This is the good news of the gospel!

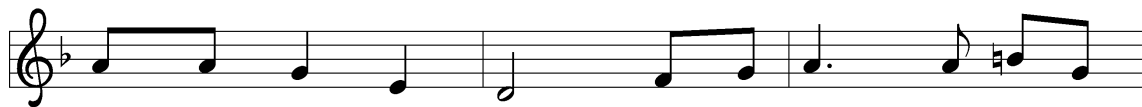
Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
In our call to be a bless - ing, may we



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
be a bless - ing true; may we live and die con -



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
fess - ing Christ as Lord of all we do. Christ as



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
Lord of all we do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, when our anxiety hovers close, when fear clings to our bones, when our stress rises like the tide, see us. Speak to us. Call us by name. See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room. Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child. Whatever you do, speak to us, for we cannot live on bread alone. In the name of the One who is the bread of life, we pray **Amen**.

+ WORD +

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

READING: Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Ministry and Presence



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no
Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time
He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent



hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own,"
with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet,
ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry



she gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best
his words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense
whose place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove



To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew
At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do
So let your heart be moved. Just one thing do I need:



Her time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing
She need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing
To feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a Christ who
teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are.**

**We believe in a Christ who
invites us to use our gifts for good
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.**

**We believe in a Christ who
understands our anxieties
and is gentle with our concerns.**

**And we believe in a Christ who
looks at us with undiluted love.**

**The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners,
but we know love has no limit.**

**So with God's help,
may we nurture our faith
and do good work. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

**God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

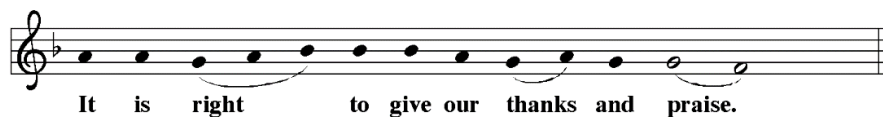
The Power of Your Love
– Geoff Bullock, setting by Jane Holstein
St. John's choir

OFFERTORY – Same as last week

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

All who are hungry, come!

The table of grace is ready.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table! Following the singing of Lamb of God, you are invited to come forward to receive communion. Come down the center aisle in two lines, receiving the bread in your open palm and taking a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice from the tray. After you have received communion, you can place your used cup in the bowls at the end of the first pew. Children who do not yet receive are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Before and after you receive, you are invited to join in singing the communion hymn below.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 777 Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
May you move through this world with an open heart,
a curious mind, and the confidence that you do not go alone.
God – Father, Son and Spirit – is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.

Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW 335 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that God will meet you
in between faith & works.

Thanks be to God.

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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard & Martha Gibeon, David Mounts, Ruthie Jadick, Jill Iris, Ed Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Marie Wolfe, Joe Tursi, Brooks Maurer, the Stauffer family, Diane Quinn, Tiffany Reber, Bill Hutt, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Ardythe Mussleman, Sarah Keller, Linda Lysoby and Diane Conchado.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 17	5:30pm Lent Soup and Study 7pm Confirmation Learning
Wednesday, March 19	7pm Midweek Worship at St. Paul's, Red Hill Pastor Becky preaching
Thursday, March 20	10am Card Crew
Saturday, March 22	9:30-11:30am First Communion Workshop (2nd-5th gr) 1-3pm First Communion Workshop (Middle School)
Sunday, March 23	8am Worship 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship

First Communion Workshop Saturday, March 22 9:30-11:30 AM

This workshop will be geared towards elementary age students, Grades 2-5. A parent/guardian is expected to attend the workshop with each student.

ATTENTION PARENTS WITH STUDENTS OLDER THAN 5TH GRADE!

Do you have a student who is in middle school who has never received first communion training? A special workshop geared for older students will be held the same day, Saturday, March 22 – from 1-3 PM. Students who attend either workshop will receive the first communion on Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:15 AM.

The Card Crew is meeting on Thursday at 10am in the kitchen area. Join us to help send cards, visit and share some snacks. All are welcome!

Our mid-week Lenten worship this year focuses on the “I AM” statements in the Gospel of John for the sake of intentional reflection on and proclamation of God becoming flesh.

As we did last year, we will join the Reformed churches in the Upper Perkiomen Valley in our observance of Lent, including Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – and new this year, the Easter Vigil.

May our journey through Lent together as community in Christ prepare your heart and mind for the great celebration of Easter!

Wednesday, March 19 – Pastor Becky Schanely, preacher
7 PM Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill

Wednesday, March 26 – Pastor Kevin Compton, preacher
7 PM Service at Pennsburg UCC, Pennsburg

Wednesday, April 2 – Pastor Nick Pence, preacher
7 PM Service at Friedens UCC, Sumneytown

Wednesday, April 9 – Pastor Serena Sellers, preacher
7 PM Service at Palm Schwenkfelder Church, Palm

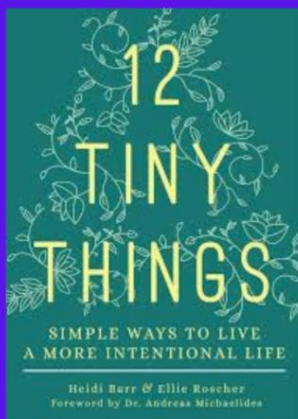
Good Friday, April 18 – Noon and 7 PM services
at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg
Easter Vigil, April 19 – Pastor David Williams, preacher
7 PM Service at New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville



FRIEDENS UCC AND
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
JOIN TOGETHER FOR

Soup & Study for Lent

Mondays from 5:30-7:00 PM
March 10 thru April 14
at St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall



All are welcome to come out for a simple soup supper, followed by conversation on the book *12 Tiny Things* by Heidi Barr & Ellie Roscher. See Pastor Stephanie or Pastor Becky to purchase a book.