

The First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 27 will be led by the cantor. The congregation joins in on the refrain.

Refrain: **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear!**

1. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,
When my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. **R:**
2. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
Though war break out against me even then I will be confident. **R:**
3. One thing I ask of the Lord; this is what I seek, that I may dwell
in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon
the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. **R:**

4. I am still confident of this,
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart
And wait for the Lord. **R:**

The Second Reading

Philippians 3:17–4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be God**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

ELW 151

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful.
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

Gospel Response C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

ASSISTING MINISTER: Thom Cipro

LECTOR: Jen McMurray

USHERS: Jeff and Marcy Miller

GREETERS: Thom and Colleen Cipro

BELL RINGER: David Williamson

CRY ROOM: Located downstairs in the youth room. Also available are coloring books and crayons on the last pew in a green basket.

CALENDAR

TODAY 10:00 Third Sunday Fellowship

WEDNESDAY 6:15 Lenten Dinner and Service at St. Paul



NEW PRAYER REQUESTS: Patti Mulligan, Lily Herklen, Family of George Lyons, Susan Vannewkirk, friend of Janet Silvonic diagnosed with cancer and recovering from surgery.

CONTINUED PRAYER: Shonna Ash, Tom Brosenitsch, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch diagnosed with breast cancer, Karen Campell, Jenny, Bernie Fedorka, Adrienne Haegg, William Loveridge, Tom Wilson.

[The complete prayer list is in the March newsletter.]

OFFERING LAST SUNDAY: \$1095.00

FOOD CUPBOARD – MARCH

Jars or cans of Sloppy Joe mix.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Next Sunday all youth are to be at the church by 8:30 AM to practice for worship.

FISH FRY DINNERS AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

We will be joining Zion and English Lutheran in providing desserts for the April 5 Fish Fry Dinner. Due to the increase of dinners sold from 600 to 700 they are asking for 225 to 250 desserts from each congregation. Desserts can be delivered to the American Legion on New Castle Street between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM. No need to cut your dessert, volunteers will handle the portions. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. We need everyone's participation in helping us to meet our desserts obligation.

THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Plan on staying after worship today for our Third Sunday Fellowship. Today we will enjoy various breakfast foods. This will be the last social until the fall, so please plan on staying.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

We are still in need for someone to volunteer as our Sunday School Superintendent. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please see Linda Flora.

CONCERT

On Friday, March 22 the group Big Daddy Weave will be in concert at Geneva College in Beaver Falls. The concert starts at 7:00 PM. If there are 4 or more of us interested in going the price may be \$15 per person, a call is being made to Geneva to confirm the price. Please let Pastor Bev know if you are interested in going.

“YOU ARE WORTH IT”

St. Peter's Reformed Church is hosting a performance of “You Are Worth It”, an original musical on the subject of anti-bullying written by Mary Ann Mangini and performed by members of The Fantastix Show Choir under Mary Ann's direction. The musical will be performed on Sunday, March 24th at 6:30 pm in St. Peter's Sanctuary. There will be refreshments following the musical and a freewill offering will be accepted. All are invited to come.

MIDWEEK LENTEN TAIZE SERVICE

Our next Lenten soup dinner with Zion Lutheran on March 20 will be hosted by St. Paul. We still need one more volunteer to make a crockpot of soup for this Wednesday night. Sign up sheet is in the narthex. At Zion Lutheran we will have dinner at 6:15 followed by a 30 minute Taizé service from the *Seeds of Trust, Reflecting on the Bible in Silence and Song* and will be focusing on Hope. At St. Paul's we will have a soup dinner at 6:15 followed by a discussion on Hope led by either Pastor Bev or John Bulger. Please try to attend this coming Wednesday evening.

ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST

Schedule of performances:

March 17, 2:00 PM, Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church, 200 Grace St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136

March 31, 2:00 PM, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2535 Fairmount Church Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

April 7, 7:00 PM, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229

April 14, 2:00 PM, Grace Anglican Church, 319 West Sycamore Street, Mt. Washington, PA 15211

April 28, 3:00 PM, Claysville Presbyterian Church, 134 Wayne Street, Claysville, PA 15323

It would be wonderful if we could get a group from the church to go to the March 31, 2:00 PM, performance. More about this concert is in your March newsletter.

ZELIENOPLE-HARMONY COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

The Community Band will present its annual Spring concert on Sunday, March 31st, at 2:00 PM. Trumpeter Wendell Banyay (Pastor Bev's brother) will perform a solo with the band, and the featured group will be a woodwind ensemble from the high school, under the direction of Sara Snyder. The concert will be held in the auditorium at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, and admission is free, though donations are welcome!

VISITORS

If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the welcome cards in the pew racks. Also, please feel free to take home a monthly newsletter. We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.

