

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### The First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

**Psalm 32 will be led by the cantor. The congregation joins in on the refrain:**

**REFRAIN:** Rejoice in the Lord and be glad you righteous;  
Sing, all you who are upright in heart!

1. Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,  
Whose sins are covered.  
Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count  
Against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. **R:**
2. When I kept silent my bones wasted away  
Through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. **R:**
3. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up.  
I said "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
And you forgave the guilt of my sin. **R:**

### The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ,

since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**The Holy Gospel**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Gospel Response **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured

your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 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 Sunday School

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

FRIDAY Deliver desserts to the American Legion



**NEW PRAYER REQUESTS:** Mike Wilson and his family on the death of his father, Tom Wilson; Patrick Monahan, Bob McMurray father-in-law of Jen McMurray undergoing chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

**CONTINUED PRAYER:** Shonna Ash, Tom Brosenitsch, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch diagnosed with breast cancer, Karen Campell, Jenny, Bernie Fedorka, Adrienne Haegg, Jeff Harris, Lily Herklen, William Loveridge, Family of George Lyons, Patti Mulligan, Bob Sullivan, Susan Vannewkirk.

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

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST SUNDAY: 42 - \$1115.00

### **THANK YOU**

To Pastor Frank Kantz for filling in for Pastor Bev today.

### **FOOD CUPBOARD – APRIL**

Food challenge for April is Cereal and any kind of Oatmeal. We have been a little slack on donations lately. Please try and bring nonperishable items for the less fortunate.

### **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.

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN TAIZE SERVICE**

It is our turn to host this coming Wednesday, April 3 with a soup dinner at 6:15 and a discussion led by John Bulger at 7:00. We hope to see many of you there to help us welcome Zion to our church home.

### **EPIC PERFORMANCE**

"A Little Night Music" will be performed tonight at 6:00. The St. Paul Choir, EPIC (Enthusiastic Performers in Christ), a group from Hope Lutheran, and other community members will unite for an evening of shared music. There is no charge, but a goodwill offering will be accepted after the concert.

### **ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST**

Schedule of performances:

**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

More about this concert is in your March newsletter.

### **ZELIENOPLE-HARMONY COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT**

The Community Band will present its annual Spring concert on today, 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!

### **LAST SUNDAY**

This is the last Sunday to order your lily for our Easter Service. Please turn in forms and money to either Colleen Cipro or Marty Goetz.

### **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.



### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Palm Sunday, April 14 – Meet in Strobel Hall for the Blessing and Procession of Palms.

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – 7:00 Service with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 19 – 7:00 Service

Easter Sunday, April 21 – 9:00 Service with Holy Communion

### **ROOTED-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

Several young adults from the Presbytery of the Ascension and other churches have created a non-denominational group designed for 18 to 30 year olds in the Beaver/Butler County area and surrounding counties. This group is designed to be time of fellowship where members from within the group will share a weekly message, worship together, and enjoy food. The group will meet on Friday nights at 7 starting April 12<sup>th</sup>. They will meet at Burry's Church, 1835 PA Route 68, Rochester, PA. If you have any questions or for more information text Emily Painter at 724-996-7702 or email [youngadults.pa@gmail.com](mailto:youngadults.pa@gmail.com)

THIS MOTHER'S DAY,



*Blanket the World with Love!*  
cwsblankets.org/mothersday

### **CWS COMING TOGETHER TO COVER OUR NEIGHBORS**

When hurricanes brought flooding and heartache to North Carolina, loving congregations provided hundreds of warm, comfortable blankets for the relief effort. They now need help again. We would like to take part in the CWS blanket drive in honor of Mother's Day. We will be collecting monetary donations starting April 14 and ending on Mother's Day, May 12.

### **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.