

*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, March 23, 2019

5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Lent 3

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

## ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## INTRODUCTION

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy:

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah the 55<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.}*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 63:1-8 (read responsively)**

*O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)*

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land  
where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your lovingkindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

*All: O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)*

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.}*

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.}*

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Robert and Barbara Miltenberger have come to us from another church, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear his Word and share in his supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated, while the table is set.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**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 our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the  
Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners,  
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place, and unite them  
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

## **COMMUNION**

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

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

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

#### **To See Beyond**

The fruit truck, sagging under loads of Florida oranges, careened, its brakes impotent. A dumbfounded man on morning errands curled into stilled silence inside his crushed Oldsmobile. Doctors looked but saw no hope: "It's time to give up." Steadfastly, every day into the barren seasons, the sound and touch of love attended him.

From sweltering southside projects to heatless northside slums, into streets at night and alleys by day, the child, more sad than angry, carried desperation until he was carried to prison. There, forgotten, he became more angry than sad. Guards looking at him saw no worth in him. But, piercing the hardbound walls, there came the faith of ones who refused to turn their faces away.

Pacing for hours day after day, ignoring sunshine and rainfall, the woman hunched and twisted inside layers of coats over jackets on top of sweaters. She repeated aimless steps outside the treatment center, chatting as if she had more company than her cigarette. Looking through windows, aides nodded: "She'll never change." A girl in jeans ran up to her, taking her hand. They walked together.

The buzzing at the door fell silent, and impatient knocking replaced it. A young man, shamefaced, slid a chain and turned the deadbolt. "You're late again. Always the same with you!" Then the ultimatum: "Your rent now or you're out!" Wobbling, the young man closed the door and sat, wooden-faced, holding his cat. Then the phone rang—"I have an idea."

"See here! . . . I have come looking . . ." (Luke 13:7).

"It's time to give up."

And they saw no worth in the boy.

And they nodded, "She'll never change."

And he said, "Always the same with you."

Yet the audacity of grace looks to see beyond barren seasons. The courage of hope looks to see beyond hardbound walls. The nerve of faith looks to see beyond aimless pacing. The boldness of mercy looks to see beyond shamed faces.

"Sir, . . . one more year" (Luke 13:8).

## ***Daily Readings for the Week March 24-30***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Third Sunday in Lent Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 39 Jeremiah 11:1-17 Romans 2:1-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 39 Ezekiel 17:1-10 Romans 2:12-16
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 39 Numbers 13:17-27 Luke 13:18-21
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 32 Joshua 4:1-13 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 32 Joshua 4:14-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 32 Exodus 32:7-14 Luke 15:1-10

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