

THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on March 3, 2021**

Third Sunday in Lent

Parish Connection (with letter from Vicar Care)	pp. 2-15
Devotions & Prayers	pp. 15-17
Sermon by Pastor Beth	pp. 18-20
Bulletin	pp. 21-32

From Vicar Care

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. --Hosea 11:1, 3-4

The prophet Hosea here is speaking the words of the Lord, our tender and compassionate divine Father. The eleventh chapter of this book begins with this loving imagery of God as the parent of a newborn nation, teaching the Israelites how to walk, breastfeeding them with heavenly love, healing and protecting these chosen people.

Yet our sacred texts are also replete with divine wrath and judgement for a people who continually stray from the Lord. The tenth chapter of Hosea ends with such dire warnings: "At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off."

What to make of these two images and metaphors for God, which seem incongruous with one another?

I am not a parent yet, but I do have two lovely cats as a part of my family here. I've noticed my tuxedo cat, Percy, has gained quite a bit of belly since moving to Catskill! He has been stealing food from Buddy, and it shows.

These last two weeks, poor Percy has been on a diet. And he *does not like it*. He has made it very clear he does not understand why his portions are smaller than usual, and he is not happy about it one bit.

At times I wish I could indulge my kitty with treats and the food he wants, but I know that if he continues to gain weight, he will have a slew of health problems later on. So, I continue to deny him what he wants.

While parenting includes guidance, forgiveness, and protection...I also think the role of a parent includes restricting what is not life-giving for their child. Perhaps what the ancient Israelites represented as divine wrath was truly God's desire to teach us good boundaries.

As Lent continues, this time of self-reflection and examination can often lead to despair or shame or guilt around our sins, fearing that wrathful God. But perhaps we can think of God's desire for divine justice in a new light--not as anger or abuse but as compassion and guidance. I doubt our God would rain down hellfire on sinful people...but perhaps God is telling us to finish our vegetables before eating dessert.

In Christ's Peace,

Vicar Care

312-538-3044

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([**whiteginger20@gmail.com**](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) or Pastor Beth ([**chellman4557@gmail.com**](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([**harryavery@yahoo.com**](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone for Worship on March 7, 2021

Use this Meeting ID: 889 9630 0296

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88996300296# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 889 9630 0296

Lenten worship --- Bible Study --- Book Study

Mondays: **Bible Study** 7 pm led by Pastor Beth

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>

Tuesdays: **Bible Study**, 10 am led by Pastor Beth

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>

Wednesdays: **Lenten worship** at 6 pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Book Study at 6:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

.....
***This week's Zoom broadcast will be from St. Luke's at 10:30 am
with Pastor Samantha Perret***

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88996300296>

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm_PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g

.....

Understanding Facebook Groups and Pages

Tri-County Lutheran Parish has both a Facebook group and a Facebook page. Ever wondered why and what the difference is?

First, our group is a closed group. This means that you must be an approved member of the group to see what is in the group. The closed status lets us post things that are not meant for widespread viewing such as prayer concerns, diagnoses and other personal things. We also cannot share what is posted on the group allowing for more privacy.

The page is public. This means anyone can see what is there and members can share what is posted on the page. Please be sure that you do not put personal information on the page.

Why have both? Because we want to have a place where the whole parish is able to share information in a private manner (group) and a place where we can access shareable information (page). An example of what is on the group is when we posted gratitude prompts in November. Members shared some personal information with one another. An example of what is on the page is our worship events. We want you to share these! When you share the worship event, a copy of the event is placed on your page so your friends can see it. The easiest evangelism there is!

It is important that you do “like” all posts. We want the public to see our page. The more “likes” we have, the more prominent it is in the Facebook searches. Please take a second and click the like button to help the parish grow a social media presence. Share the worship events and other posts from the page so others may worship with us.

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). To make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God’s hands and feet for each other!

Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a

week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: [**mmcps@tclparish.org**](mailto:mmcps@tclparish.org), which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp [**annie2919@gmail.com**](mailto:annie2919@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert [**4schubertkara4@gmail.com**](mailto:4schubertkara4@gmail.com) (H) 518-731-1190

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to [**parishadmin@tclparish.org**](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org). Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: [**parishadmin@tclparish.org**](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

Book Study

Book study continues! We are reading and discussing "Rising out of Hatred" by Eli Saslow. We meet every Wednesday at 6:30 pm on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please use the following Zoom ID: 7700997419

Bible Study

The Beatitudes have much to say about our lives as disciples of Christ. Beginning in Lent we will explore the Beatitudes in depth. I will be using the book "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship" to guide us. While it isn't necessary to have the book, some of you may like it to follow along. Please let me know if you would like me to order one for you. They are also available on Amazon, but at a higher price than direct from the publisher in a bulk order.

Bible study will be on Monday evening at 7pm by zoom and on Tuesday morning at 10am using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>
Hope you can join us!

2021 TCLP Board Members – TBA

Congregation Announcements

In-person worship has returned!

Check your congregation's announcements.

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact -- TBA

In-person worship 8:30 a.m.

2021 Calendars... Devotional Booklets... Offering Envelopes...oh, my!!

They're all here! Stop in and get yours!

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	President
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	Vice President
Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
*Dick Frick		Co-Treasurer
*Chuck Albertson		Secretary
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex Officio member	

* Non-elected council member

PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Chair:	Harry Avery (Chair)
Primary:	Harry Avery
Alternate:	Chuck Albertson

Committees

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke's)

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)

Will be from St. Luke's this year.

Emanuel Council meeting 3/9 at 7 p.m.

ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- TBA

In-person worship 10:30 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021

Tim McGlauflin

Mike Schunk

Janis McGlauflin

Dana Berntson

Ted Fiebke

Gail Paone

Karen McIntyre

Sharon Smith

Council Officers

Karen McIntyre -- President

Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)

Sharon Smith – Secretary

Sharon Campbell is new financial secretary (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – TBA

St. Luke's Council meeting 3/16 at 7 p.m.

The 2021 offering envelopes...we still got 'em! Find them in the narthex when you come to worship!

St. Luke's 2021 Calendars...they're still here too! Also located in the narthex!

St. Luke's is selling tag sale items by appointment only. If interested, please contact Beegee Roppolo at 518-758-7045 or 518-320-6223; or Karen Lasher at 518-784-2032.

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

In-person worship 11 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

In-person worship 9 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<u>Gethen Proper</u>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
<u>Carol Serazio</u>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
<u>John Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

Financial Secretary needed! Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

TCLP Board Reps: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie <u>Menagh</u>	President	518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA)	Treasurer	
Sally Lord	Secretary	

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever.

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

In-person worship 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber President

Kurt Hoelter Vice President

Heidi Brennan Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Cate MacPherson

Richard Mac Donald (Mac)

Henry Bartel

Patty Bervy

TCLP Board Reps – Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

Contact – Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or cjmay33@gmail.com

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Mayrer President
Brian Schell Vice President
Treasurer Charles Senrick
Cathy Teeter, Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

OUTREACH : Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com
518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Pending

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact – Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com (H) 518-336-4077 (C) 518-312-8603

In-person worship 9 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp President
Eric Knodler Vice President
Elaine Dickson Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave Financial Secretary (not on Council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be

reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email
scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

Devotions and Prayers for the Third Sunday in Lent- curated by Vicar Carolyn

A Litany to Honor Women, From “Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals”

March is Women’s History Month, and this liturgy is a beautiful reminder of the many women in our sacred texts and our history who have illuminated the faith.

We walk in the company of the women who have gone before;
mothers of the faith both named and unnamed. Testifying with
ferocity and faith to the Spirit of Wisdom and Healing. They are the
judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers and
saints. Who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the
crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

We walk in the company of Deborah,
who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.

We walk in the company of Esther,
who used her position as Queen to ensure the welfare of her people.

We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and
silenced, who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

We walk in the company of the woman with the flow of blood,
who audaciously sought her healing and release.

We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,
who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

We walk in the company of Phoebe,
who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

We walk in the company of Perpetua of Carthage,
whose witness in the third century led to her martyrdom.

We walk in the company of Saint Christina the Astonishing,
who resisted death with persistence and wonder.

We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,
who wed imagination and theology proclaiming "all shall be well."

We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,
who stood against oppression, righteously declaring "ain't I a
woman!" in 1852.

We walk in the company of the Argentine Mothers of the Plaza de
Mayo, who turned their grief to strength, standing together to
remember "the disappeared" children of war with a holy indignation.

We walk in the company of Alice Walker,
who named the lavender hue of womanish strength.

We walk in the company of you Mothers of the faith,
who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom, and to
heal. Amen.

A Blessing by Valerie Allen

May the song of the birds be the bearer of your joy.
May the softness of the moss be the pillow for your dreams.
May the puzzle of the monkey bring adventure to your steps.
May the down of the feather be the gentleness of your touch.
May the wild nettle grove be the healing of your pain.
May the tiny petals falling awaken wonder in your eyes.
May the gold of buttercup reflect the deepening of your love.

“Faith isn't about having everything figured out ahead of time; faith is about following the quiet voice of God without having everything figured out ahead of time.” --**Rachel Held Evans**

A Lutheran Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father, let your blessing be on us as we pass through these holy days in which we remember the sufferings and death of our dear Lord.

Set his example before us, that we may follow him in willing obedience, learn his gracious humility, and be filled with his love and spirit of self-sacrifice, and learn the lessons of a life pleasing to you and helpful to our neighbors; through him who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Wherever the gospel is preached, we must remember that its good news will make you crazy. Jesus will put you at odds with the economic and political systems of our world. This gospel will force you to act, interrupting the world as it is in ways that make even pious people indignant.” --**Emmanuel Katongole**

“Blessed is the time of waiting, when we stay awake for the Lord, the Creator of the universe, who fills all things and transcends all things.

How I wish he would awaken me, his humble servant, from the sleep of slothfulness, even though I am of little worth. How I wish he would enkindle me with that fire of divine love. The flames of his love burn beyond the stars; the longing for his overwhelming delights and the divine fire ever burn within me!” --**Columbanus**

Sermon by Pastor Beth

I remember one summer when I was 12 or 13 how excited I was to be going to summer camp. For one whole week I would be living in a tent, spending the day swimming, hiking, and having fun with friends. The same things I would likely be doing at home, only my parents wouldn't be there. I had it all planned - what to pack, which campsite my tent would be in, what extra activities I signed up for. I spent days packing it all up in anticipation.

So, the day finally came when Mom was to take me to camp. Normally Mom had to wake me up, but not this day. You probably think I was up because I was so excited, I couldn't sleep. But no, I was in the bathroom hugging the commode. I was so sick to my stomach I could barely move. It had started during the night, but I didn't tell Mom because I was really hoping it would pass and I could still go to camp. But it didn't. In between showering and dressing I was sick. I was sick before I began to carry my things downstairs. I tried to hide my face from Mom, but Mom's have this "sick radar." They just know when something is off. One look at me and Mom knew. There went my last hope of summer camp, round and round down the toilet.

I'm willing to bet you can sympathize with poor Peter. Like me, you have your hopes and dreams. You build up your vision of how things will be only to have it dashed. Not only was Peter hearing the news that he would lose his friend and teacher, Peter was watching his dreams shatter and his hopes disappear. Peter was counting on a messiah that would overthrow the Romans, not a messiah that would die at their hands on a cross. Peter was looking forward to serving in Jesus' close circle of authority. Peter had caught the vision. He knew the mission and great suffering, rejection and death were not a part of his plan.

It is very tempting to hear the words "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" as something simple to do. Step out of your comfort zone and sit with a stranger in worship. Or dig deeper into your pockets and increase your giving. Or speak up for Jesus and bring a friend to church. You've probably even heard sermons challenging you to do these things. I've preached those things in sermons.

None of those things are bad as each could benefit the congregation. But maybe taking up our crosses means letting go of what we know to be the vision, the mission, the plan in order to embrace whatever it is that God has in store. And perhaps taking up our crosses means denying ourselves as someone dear to us takes up their cross and follows Jesus shattering our dreams and hopes.

I find it much easier to take up a cross myself than to watch someone I love take up their own. I'd rather be the one battling cancer than standing helplessly by as someone I love is sick. I'd rather be the one sent off into danger than the one left behind. When I find myself watching someone I love take up a cross, I'm like Peter, ready to rebuke - to scold, to reprimand, to chew them out. Except my rebukes are generally aimed at God.

Have you ever really unloaded all your anger on God? Isn't it wonderful that we can rebuke God? The Psalms are full of lament, anger, and confusion at what God is doing. Picture it: Peter takes Jesus - the Messiah, the Son of God - aside and begins to rebuke him. And Peter survives! Jesus doesn't say, "This is inappropriate behavior". Jesus doesn't reject Peter. Jesus doesn't stop loving Peter. All along the way, when we put human things ahead of things divine, Jesus bears our rebuke. Jesus bore the rebuke of the elders, chief priests and scribes who rejected him. Jesus bore the rebuke of the crowds who abandoned him. Jesus bore the rebuke of his followers who betray and deny him. Jesus bore humanity's biggest rebuke - nailing the Son of God to a cross. And Jesus never stopped loving us. Jesus never rejected us. Jesus never threw his hands up and walked away from us. So, if you are ready to rebuke, take Jesus aside and rebuke away. Go for it and know that Jesus will not stop loving you. Jesus will never stop loving you.

But also know this. Jesus will rebuke back in a most powerful way. Jesus will rebuke back. You think "Get behind me Satan" are strong words? Jesus' rebuke is even bigger. When we rebuked Jesus by nailing him to a cross, God rebuked our way of death by raising Jesus to new life. Jesus said it quite openly - "and after three days rise again." And he did it!

Risen from the dead, Jesus promises a day when cancer and viruses will be rebuked by health, when war will be rebuked by peace, when hate will be rebuked by love, when human things will be rebuked by things divine. For God's way is always to bring new life. Jesus promises, "Those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." As we wait for that day, Jesus is here among us in this place where Jesus' promise of new life is spoken and heard, Jesus is here among us in this place, where Jesus' meal of new life is celebrated and shared. Jesus is here among us in this place, where Jesus' people of new life struggle together to set our minds on divine things.

Here we shout our rebukes to God so that God can set us free from them, empowering us to see Jesus bringing new life. That's the vision. That's the mission. That's God's plan. The rest is just details. The temptation is to lose sight of the big picture as we get lost in the changes and chances of life. Human things rather than things divine.

Let us pay attention to Jesus' rebukes. Let us all watch our hopes and dreams being flushed down the toilet because as resurrection people we trust in those words "and after three days rise again". The hopes and dreams that rise again are centered in grace, forgiveness, new life. That's the vision. That's the mission. Thanks be to God that Jesus rebukes us! Blessed Lent.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
March 7, 2021 Third Sunday in Lent
Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion
Worship Leader: Pastor Samantha Perret
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88996300296>

Announcements

() stand, if able*

Gathering Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Call to Worship

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

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Out of the depths we cry to God, in our suffering and in our pain. Out of the depths God cries to us, asking us to repent, to return to God with our whole hearts, to admit our sin, and to accept forgiveness. Amen.

So let us pray with one another, first in silence.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God, hear our prayer:

C: For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness.

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us.

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist.

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us.

We pray for the courage to admit our fault,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

L: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of the Triune God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. **C: Amen.**

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You 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. ⁵You 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, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹For 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.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You 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.

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

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**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.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. ⁶It 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. ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above 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.

¹⁴Let 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: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where 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?

²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and

Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Gospel Acclamation

We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

(1 Cor. 1:23, 24)

Gospel: John 2:13-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making 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. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

Apostles Creed

C: 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 into hell; 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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

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. We pray for our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray for military personnel John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering especially for Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Hans Serazio, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family,

Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, that Christ our healer transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation, and suffering into peace,. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for (*Perpetua, Felicity, and*) all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. We pray for the family and friends of Ellen Puglio and Burma Cavanagh. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Peace

L: I will give you all a moment to unmute yourselves... The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Dialogue

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

L: 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.

L: 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.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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.

*** Distribution of Communion**

Post Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

*** Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*** Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of... Ellen Puglio, Burma Cavanagh.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Hans Serazio, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bob and Rita Laffety, Larry Gander, Mary Ellen Gander, Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Mary AnnPaul & family; Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi , Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.