

# THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish  
Issued on March 10, 2021**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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## From Pastor Sam

Greetings,

As Spring rapidly approaches and the season of Winter winds down, I become excited. As much as I love the still beauty of falling snow and the cold quiet of Winter, I do look forward to the promise of Spring: clearing out the flowerbeds, planting seeds and waiting for everything to grow.

One of my favorite poets, Wendell Berry, writes of this time in his poem titled, "A Purification":

At the start of spring I open a trench in the  
ground. I put into it  
the winter's accumulation of paper, pages I  
do not want to read  
again, useless words, fragments, errors.  
And I put into it  
the contents of the outhouse: light of the  
sun, growth of the ground,  
finished with one of their journeys.  
To the sky, to the wind, then, and to  
the faithful trees, I confess  
my sins: that I have not been happy  
enough, considering my good luck; have  
listened to too much noise;  
have been inattentive to wonders; have  
lusted after praise.  
And then upon the gathered refuse of  
mind and body, I close the trench, folding  
shut again the dark,  
the deathless earth. Beneath that seal the  
old escapes into the new.

In addition to the blatant imagery of seasonal changes, we can read this poem with a Christian lens as we more deeply consider the time of Lent. As we look inward to consider those things of which we need to repent, those things that come between us and God. During Lent, we discover and pluck those things from our hearts and, much like Berry writes of putting

these things in a trench, we prepare to leave them at the cross of Jesus Christ.

When we clear out the flower beds of our hearts to remove the dead plants (guilt) and weeds (sins), we make space for God to “create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us,” (Psalm 51:10 paraphrased) where love can grow and where fresh opportunities to serve others can blossom. The old has passed and must be removed so that the new seeds can have a chance at optimal growth.

As we continue through Lent, I invite you to a time of clearing out your hearts. Spend some time examining. Identify habits and thoughts that are uncharitable or unkind. Find those old uncomfortable feelings of guilt lodged in the corners. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and help you clean up! Take some breaks to pray or read some scripture. Once you have identified all those things that are getting in the way of your relationship with God, get rid of them. Fill your hearts with forgiveness and grace and hope and love - to make it ready for all God has intended to plant.

Peace and continued Lenten blessings,  
Pastor Sam

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:poetphyl@gmail.com) or Jeannette Wilber at [tam20kfw@tclparish.org](mailto:tam20kfw@tclparish.org).

**To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone  
for Worship on March 14, 2021**

Use this Meeting ID: 252 943 5520

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/87802267557>

**Book Study** at 6:30 p.m.

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

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***This week's Zoom broadcast will be from St. Paul's at 11 am  
with Pastor Beth George***

***Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>***

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTmPrA-l1qlv8PJ-g>**

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## 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.

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**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!

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**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.

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**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@tciparish.org](mailto:mmcps@tciparish.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

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**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@tciparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tciparish.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**

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

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### **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.



# **ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE**

**Contact -- TBA**

## **In-person worship 10:30 AM**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021**

Tim McGlaulin

Mike Schunk

Janis McGlaulin

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**

**Readers during Worship**

- 3/7 Ethan Race
- 3/14 Beegee Roppolo
- 3/21 Kara Udway
- 3/28 Karen McIntyre
- 4/4 Sharon Smith
- 4/11 Dana Berntson
- 4/18 Larry Eleby
- 4/25 Brian Smith
- 5/2 Karen Lasher
- 5/9 Ethan Race
- 5/16 Beegee Roppolo
- 5/23 Kara Udway
- 5/30 Sharon Smith

**EASTER FLOWERS!!**

**Orders due ASAP!!! Checks payable to St. Luke's.**

**Please specify type of flowers and who it's in memory/honor of.**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRICE</b>
<b>5+ Bloom Lily</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>Tulips (5/6 Bulbs)</b>	<b>\$7.75</b>
<b>Hyacinth (3 Bulbs)</b>	<b>\$7.75</b>

## **St. Luke's Council meeting 3/23 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
Gethen Proper	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
Carol Serazio		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
John Wais		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](mailto:jamspirit@hardsdisk.net) 518-256 2496 (cell)**

**In-person worship 11 a.m.**

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jackie Menagh      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](mailto: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](http://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  
Charles Senrick         Treasurer  
Cathy Teeter,            Secretary  
Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

**OUTREACH :** Alice Senrick [Asenrick29@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:annie2919@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-1335**

Nicole Gardner [scullynik@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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**What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)

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

Email: [chellman4557@gmail.com](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)

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

E-mail --[pastordanhahn@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanhahn@gmail.com)

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: [Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu](mailto: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 Fourth Sunday in Lent- curated by Vicar Carolyn**

### **A Blessing for International Women's Day from Niluka Perera, Sri Lanka**

May the God of Eve teach you to dance.  
May the God of Hagar bring you comfort in the desert.  
May the God of Miriam  
bring companions to you when you struggle.  
May the God of Deborah teach you courage for your battles.  
May the Christ who knew Mary and Martha  
Show you the way of balance.  
May the Christ who healed the bent-over woman  
Heal your pain.  
May the Christ of Mary Magdala  
Send you out to proclaim your story.  
In the name of Christ who is the memory  
And hope of the future.

### **A Prayer from St. Francis:**

Almighty, eternal, just, and merciful God,  
Grant us in our misery the grace  
To do for you what we know you want us to do,  
And always to desire what pleases you.  
So that inwardly purified, inwardly illumined,  
And kindled by the flame of the Holy Spirit,  
We may be able to follow the footsteps of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And, by your grace alone,  
May we come to you, Most High,



Who lives and reigns in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,  
And are glorified God almighty  
Forever and ever. Amen.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’

**--Matthew 23:37-39, NLT**

“And you, Jesus, are you not also a mother?  
Are you not the mother who, like a hen,  
Gathers her chickens under her wings?  
Truly, Lord, you are a mother,  
For those who have been brought forth by others are in fact accepted by you...  
You brought them forth by your death.  
For if you had not been in labour,  
You could not have borne death;  
And if you had not died, you would not have given birth.  
For, longing to bear sons and daughters into life,  
You tasted of death, and by dying you begot them.”

**--St. Anselm of Canterbury**

Then Moses had Israel leave the Reed Sea and go out into the Shur desert. They traveled for three days in the desert and found no water. When they came to Marah, they couldn’t drink Marah’s water because it was bitter. That’s why it was called Marah. The people complained against Moses, “What will we drink?” Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord pointed out a tree to him. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

The Lord made a regulation and a ruling there, and there he tested them. The Lord said, “If you are careful to obey the Lord your God, do what God thinks is right, pay attention to his commandments, and keep all of his

regulations, then I won't bring on you any of the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians. I am the Lord who heals you."

**--Exodus 15:22-26**

**A Poem by Hadewijch of Antwerp**

You who want  
knowledge,  
seek the Oneness  
within

There you  
will find  
the clear mirror  
already waiting

**Sermon for Lent 3 by Rev. Samantha Perret - based on John 2:13-22**

When I work with couples seeking premarital counseling, one of the things I point out, other than the power of forgiveness, is how important it is to have reasonable expectations (of your partner, of yourself and of the relationship). When our unreasonable expectations are not met, that often leads to disappointment and conflict. So, when we can discern reasonable expectations, and communicate those to our partners, we are more likely to meet those expectations and thus avoid that conflict.

In our Gospel lesson, we can see what happens when expectations are not met - and the conflict that can result. Jesus has entered the temple in Jerusalem at the time of Passover [Now, it is important to note, that this is not THE Passover immediately preceding his death, but rather the first Passover in his 3-year ministry that is accounted in the Gospel of John. Jesus has come from the wedding in Cana, where he changed water into wine, and after a brief couple of days in Capernaum, enters Jerusalem.] He is at the very beginning of his ministry.

Jesus has certain expectations surrounding his visit to the temple. He expects it to be a place where everyone can worship God. Where he will hear scriptures read and those listening would be educated. Instead, he finds money changers (exchanging the Greek and Roman money into Jewish shekels) and vendors selling overpriced animals used for offerings. This system would not have been a surprise to Jesus, but it wasn't what one should expect from a place of worship, from a house of God.

Jesus is deeply disturbed by the presence of the money changers and the vendors of sacrificial animals. He is angry that these people are making a profit off the sacred nature of sacrifice. He is angry that worshipers are being exploited - paying unfair and steep prices for what they feel they need to purchase in order to be in a good relationship with God.

As a result, Jesus reacts in a violent way, brandishing a whip, flipping tables and driving the animals out. Notice, Jesus doesn't drive the people out - he simply eliminates their means to exploiting those in need of those services. The people are given a second chance. Jesus expects something different.

As a result, we see a Jesus in this Gospel account who is very different from the one whom we expect. We expect our Jesus to be loving, calm, and, well, NICE. This Jesus is angry, passionate, and not nice, but shall we say, full of righteous indignation. This Jesus makes us feel awkward and uncomfortable. Our image of Jesus is altered.

But this is only because we have unrealistic expectations regarding Jesus. While this image of Jesus isn't calm or NICE - Jesus is justifiably upset and seeking to make the situation *right*. Allowing the poor to be overcharged and exploited is not something that should have been allowed in the Temple, of all places. Jesus being NICE isn't going to change this dirty system.

From that time on, there is no question throughout the Gospel accounts as to how Jesus feels about the importance of doing the right thing. At the

end of the day, this is the most reasonable expectation we can have about Jesus - not that Jesus is NICE, but that Jesus will always do the right thing. If we expect that - we will never feel uncomfortable when Jesus is true to his nature. We can read this passage with complete understanding as to the motives of Jesus and can truly appreciate his passionate response.

There is a lot we can learn about not only the example of Jesus, and our emotional responses to his actions, but also how we can set reasonable expectations as we work together as followers of Jesus today. This Lenten season is a good time to think about some of these questions - not just because we are in a time of natural introspection, but also because our parish is actively engaged in an Outreach campaign.

How do you expect the church to answer the call to serve and love our siblings in Christ?

Have you ever expected people to just show up and attend worship?

Do you expect all the members of a congregation to work together to reach out to the "least of these"?

What expectations do you have for your own level of commitment?

What do you expect new Christians might need from us on their faith journey?

What reasonable expectations can we place on ourselves and others as disciples of Jesus Christ?

I hope it is a reasonable expectation to always strive to do what is right - even if that puts us at odds with our neighbors. I hope that by our actions, we can change how others expect us to behave. I hope we can be expected to speak up for those who have been silenced, to feed those who are hungry, to comfort those who are in need of care.

We can also expect that occasionally, we might not meet even those reasonable expectations. Sometimes those with whom we are working will fall short and disappoint us and sometimes we will fall short and disappoint

others. That's just the way it is. But I expect that we will be forgiving of each other and offer grace, just as we have received it. I expect we will remember who first loved us and offers the greatest gift of love.

Jesus sets the tone for his entire ministry in the Gospel of John in this lesson - he creates the expectation that he will work to do what is right and we, in turn, are inheritors of that expectation. Let us work together, to lovingly hold each other accountable, to offer grace and a helping hand when needed and to continue to spread the good news of the love and salvation found in Jesus Christ that is for all people. Amen.

**Tri-County Lutheran Parish**  
**March 14, 2021, Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion**  
**Worship Leader: Pastor Beth George**  
**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>**

**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: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

<sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

## **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ



Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

### **Gospel: John 3:14-21**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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.*

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry (*specific mission partners may be named*), our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Bless 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.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring

growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought (*especially*). Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. 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 mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, especially Rob Gransfors, 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 Hublely, 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,. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter (*especially*). Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. 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.**

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. We pray for the family and friends of Tracy Jensen, Ellen Puglio, and Burma Cavenagh. 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... Tracy Jensen, 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: Rob Gransfors, 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 Huble, 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.