



***Sexagesima Sunday
February 20, 2022***

Morning Prayer and Sermon

Welcome to Trinity Church!

Sexagesima Sunday is the name for the second Sunday before Ash Wednesday. On Sexagesima, individuals are encouraged to evaluate their current spiritual state and prepare themselves to enter the season of Lent. The name “Sexagesima” is derived from the Latin *sexagesimus*, meaning “sixtieth.”

The gospel pericope for this Sunday is from St. Luke 8:4-15. John MacArthur writes as an introduction: *The good news of salvation is so inexplicably wonderful and glorious that words cannot express its magnificence. Those who have experienced salvation’s blessings—forgiveness of sin (Acts 10:43) and freedom from its tyranny (Rom. 6:1–7); justification (Rom. 3:20–28); eternal life (John 3:16); peace with God (Rom. 5:1); adoption into the family of God (Rom. 8:15); the indwelling (2 Tim. 1:14); filling (Eph. 5:18); and empowering (Acts 1:8) of the Holy Spirit; a clear conscience (Heb. 10:22); the hope of heaven (1 Peter 1:4); the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) revealed in the word of truth (John 17:17)—find it hard to understand how anyone could reject it. After all, who would turn down eternal life in favor of eternal punishment? Who would hold on to hell and reject heaven? Who would refuse everlasting joy and peace and in its place prefer instead misery and pain?*

The parable the Lord related in this passage answers the question of why throughout redemptive history most people have rejected the gospel (Matt. 7:14; 22:14; Luke 13:23–24). It is crucial to a proper understanding of evangelism, and reveals what kind of responses believers can expect when they present the gospel. Jesus’ simple illustration provides profound and unforgettable insight into the subject of receptivity to the gospel. He makes it clear that the issue is not the gospel message, nor is it the skill or methodology of those proclaiming it. The determining factor is the condition of the hearer’s heart.

The importance of the heart cannot be overstated. “Watch over your heart with all diligence,” counseled Solomon, “for from it flow the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23).

Welcome to “pre-Lent” this year. Come to the well of salvation and drink deeply of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

*Variations on **Foundation*** – arr. J. Jordan

Invitation

When I Look into Your Holiness

God Calls Us to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another. —based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16,

NRSV

Silent Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession —based on Psalm 51:10-12

Merciful God,

you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

God Declares Us Forgiven in Christ -based on Psalm 147:2-3, 5

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

***Praise: No. 275**

How Firm A Foundation

***The Collect**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

Psalter – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Responsively

¹ Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!

² **For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.**

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

⁴ **Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

⁶ **He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

⁸ **Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**

⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰ **In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be
there.**

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

³⁹ **The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,

because they take refuge in him. ¹

***Gospel Acclamation: Bulletin Page**

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

***Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**

St. Luke 8:4-15

⁴ And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵ “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. ²

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles’ Creed

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, God’s only Son, our Lord,

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary*. (2009). Faithlife.

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Lk 8:4–15). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

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 hades.
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 quick 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

“PD”

Soil Report

Song of Response: No. 383

Open Our Eyes, Lord

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using debts and debtors]

*Hymn of Dedication: No. 271

Standing on the Promises

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Response

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*Going Forth

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The Saints In Action

Today – *Sexagesima Sunday*

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday – *Quinquagesima Sunday*

9:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Baptism

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

Giving From 2/13/2022

	Rec	Budget	Over/Under
General	\$2683.00	\$2521.38	\$161.62
Ben	\$365.00	\$213.46	\$151.54
Maint	\$220.00	\$163.46	\$56.54
Mem	\$30.00		
Total	\$3298.00	\$2898.30	\$369.70

Benevolence includes Food Pantry of \$125

Worship Attendance: 65

Sunday School: 6



Those Remembered in prayer:

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

Shut Ins:

Lew & Barb Berkley, Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Janet Gindlesperger, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Deb Luteri, Lois Saylor.

Healing Concerns:

Sally Altfather, Mark Amyot, Donnie Baxter, Jim Benoit, Carol Boyer, Jim Coughenour, Pam Crooks, Larry Custer, Dana Dawson, Ray Engle, Pat Fritz, Mary Jane Harding, Andrea (Shaulis) Harris, Larry Hay, Barry Landis, Jennifer Miller, Bob Murphy, Bonnie Murphy, Nancy Schrock, Avis Specht, Kelly Tharp, Adeline Vieregge, Robin Walker, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, The Family of Karen Will, Kimberly Kay Roos Zimmerman, Gerald Zorn

Where You May Find . . .

The Nursery: *is on the lower level for children and their parent. A big screen TV is mounted in the room so that you may watch the service.*

At the Sanctuary Entrances. . .

Large Print Bulletins

Hearing Amplifiers

Recycling Boxes for Bulletins

These Days – Devotional

Assisting in Worship

Sound: Tom Croner, Russ Hillegas

Acolyte: Matt Miller

The Flowers on the altar in honor of the children of our congregation by Bob & Colleen Glotfelty

The Whole Congregation in Ministry and Assisted by

Pastor: Rev'd Dr. David A. Williams

Church Secretary: Pam Bush

*Financial Secretary: Renee Gindlesperger
Chancel Choir Director Emeritus: Linda Gallick
Handbells: Jeanne Hillegas*

**Church Office Hours – Tuesday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Church Office Phone: 814-267-3234

Snail Mail: PO Box 86, Berlin, PA 15530

Email: berlinucc@yahoo.com

Website: www.berlinucc.org

Pastor's Contact Information

Cell Phone: 814-241-3919

E-Mail: uccvicar@gmail.com

603 Fletcher Street, Berlin, PA 15530

Fasnacht Night – [Dinner and Donuts] **Tuesday, March 1st at 6 p.m.** in Trinity Fellowship Hall. Pastor Dave will be bringing the “Fasnacht” from Oakmont Bakery. Dinner will be a potluck carry-in of your favorite festive foods! Nothing low calorie, bring on the butter, bacon, and cream! We will enjoy food, fellowship, and a little comedy! With the falling COVID counts – we need a little fellowship and friendship at the table.

Ash Wednesday, March 2 – Worship at Zion Lutheran Church, 355 Center Avenue, Meyersdale at 7 p.m. Ashes and Holy Communion. [Maundy Thursday service will be at Trinity this year.]

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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shad-ows in the light of You. - I wor-ship

17

You, _____ I wor-ship You _____ The

21

rea-son I live is to wor-ship You. _____

24

_____ I wor-ship You _____ I wor-ship You _____

28

_____ The rea-son I live is to wor-ship You. _____

32
