Welcome
1st Week in Lent
February 24, 2021
3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Led by Pastor Dieter Punt

UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused
4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ http://ulcsalisbury.org

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883
Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus
Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org
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A charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
ORDER OF SERVICE

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment. Matthew 26:6-7

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.
P Let us ever walk with Jesus.
C To see the depths of his love.
P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.
C To gaze upon the heights of his grace.
P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.
C We walk with Jesus to Bethany.
P And into the house of Simon the leper.
C Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.
P Faithful Lord, with me abide.
C I shall follow where you guide!

The organ silently introduces and leads the Congregation of the Hymn 487 Let us ever walk with Jesus

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above.  
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Our Gospel reading states that, “Mary came up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.” Forgive us, kind Father—
C For too often, our giving is nothing like this.
P Our sinful nature prefers another word—
C Get.
P  Get even, get back and get revenge.
C  Get more, get ahead and get on top.
P  We are consumed with consuming.
C  Driven by selfish desires.
P  Passionate about more possessions.
C  We are too much like the disciples.
P  And too little like Mary.
C  Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!
(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)
P  Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!
C  I shall follow where you guide!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P  Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, for through her generosity we catch a glimpse of your joyful and generous kingdom. By your Spirit’s power enable us to live and give like her; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C  Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON
FIRST LESSON: Exodus 36:1-7

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.” And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.” So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.
SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:6-13

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

SERMON

Pastor Dieter Punt

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1 When I survey the wondrous cross On which the  
2 For, bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor-row and  
4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a  

prince of glory died, My richest gain I  
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that  
love flowed mingled down. Did e’er such love and  
tribute far too small; Love so a-maz-ing.
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

Amen
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

BLESSING
The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen

Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, without one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me,
2 Just as I am, and wait-ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
3 Just as I am, though tossed a-bout With man-y a con-flict, man-y a doubt,
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch-ed, blind; Sight, rich-es, heal-ing of the mind,

And that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
Fight-ings and fears with-in, with-out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,

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Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethany, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

Let us ever walk with Jesus!
Mid-Week Lenten Series  

**PLACES of the PASSION**

Two ways to be able to participate:

- 3:30 pm – Prayer Service (masks required)
- 6:30 pm – Worship (CDC guidelines followed)

**Mid-Week Lenten Suppers of soup and sandwich** beginning on **Wednesdays, February 24-March 24**, at **5:45 p.m.** in the Dutch Meeting Hall. If you wish to assist, please contact Tara Davis or Mike Cauble.

March 3  
- Mount of Olives  
  Led by Pastor Heidi Punt

Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 2 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation. In this service, we go to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus went with his disciples to pray. We are called to find places to pray this Lent and seek the will of the Lord in our lives.

Matthew 26:30-35

Topic: The Disciples sing a hymn with Jesus before they head out to this place of prayer.

March 10  
- The Garden of Gethsemane  
  Led by Pastor Dieter Punt

Matthew 26:47-56

Topic: Jesus is betrayed and arrested in this garden under cover of darkness.

March 17  
- The Courtyard  
  Led by Pastor Heidi Punt

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:57-69

Topic: While Jesus is put on trial before the high priest, Peter denies Jesus in this place.

March 24  
- Pilate’s Judgment Hall  
  Led by Pastor Heidi Punt

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:11-23

Topic: Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead