



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2023

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

7:00 PM

*Our faith has been handed on to us by generations stretching back to the Apostles. We give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses who have passed on the faith, running the race that was set before them. We remember missionaries who crossed boundaries and barriers of culture and language to share the faith; we remember scholars, teachers, pastors, and the many faithful people in our own lives who in their witness to us have modeled what it means to look to Jesus.*

*Lenten offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.*

GATHERING

***Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.***

**Prelude**

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

Tune PILOT by John E. Gould; Organ setting by Donald Rotermund

**Welcome**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Gathering Song**

“Christ, Our Peace” sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

CHRIST, OUR PEACE

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 2007 GIA Publications, Inc.

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

**Greeting**

The love of God poured into our hearts,  
the saving grace of Jesus Christ ✠,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray. O God, ancient and eternal, in Christ you make all things new. In baptism we have been buried with Christ and made citizens with the saints. Keep us faithful all our days, and at length bring us into the glory of your kingdom. Through the same Jesus Christ, our life, our strength, and our hope.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Silence

*During this time of silence we quiet ourselves, entering into the mystery of God's presence. The beginning and the end of this period of silence is marked with the sound of a bell.*

## Sung Prayer

“Father, I Adore You”

Text and Music by Tony Coelho

T & M: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

1 Fa - ther,  
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -  
3 Spir - it,  
fore you; how I love you.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.*

“Faithful in Prayer”

Gregory the Great; Patrick

## Isaiah 55:6-12

(read responsively)

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>**let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord,** that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>**For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,**

<sup>10b</sup>making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>**so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,**

<sup>11b</sup>but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>**For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;**

<sup>12b</sup>the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

## Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the

dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Song**

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” ELW 755

PILOT

1. Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life’s tempestuous sea;  
unknow waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach’rous shoal;  
chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.
2. As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
boist’rous waves obey thy will when thou say’st to them:  
“Be still.” Wondrous sov’reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.
3. When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar  
twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,  
may I hear thee say to me: “Fear not, I will pilot thee.”

Text : Edward Hopper, 1818-1888; Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875

**Lenten Meditation**

*“Faith in Jesus, Love toward All”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

**Song**

“Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793

SLANE

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art;  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r,  
raise thou me heav’n-ward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text Irish, 8th cen.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional

PRAYER

*The Holy Spirit prays with and through us.*

**Responsive Prayers**

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

*The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.*

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

*A brief silence.*

*“Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.”* Isaiah 55:6

Merciful God, you call us to follow you. As you sent missionaries into the world, so too, each local congregation is in mission proclaiming your word. Bless all churches throughout the world to incarnate the good news of Christ in faith and love toward all people so that your glory might resound through all creation.

O Lord, hear our prayer

**And I will tell of your power**

Merciful God, as Jesus suffers with us, you call us to suffer with others. With the grace of Christ’s cross and resurrection, strengthen, uphold, and pilot each of us over life’s tempestuous sea, so that we might suffer with, heal, and protect all others in need. We pray for healing of body, mind and spirit for those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

*Silence*

O Lord, hear our prayer

**And I will tell of your power**

Merciful God, you call us to be peacemakers in this world. Be thou our vision, O Lord, and help us, waking or sleeping, to live with wisdom and compassion for all your children. Teach us your thoughts and ways, that in working to end hatred, oppression and war between peoples and nations, the purpose of your word might be accomplished throughout the earth.

O Lord, hear our prayer

**And I will tell of your power**

Merciful God, you enlighten our hearts, calling us to hope in you. Help us to share, along with all people, in the glorious inheritance of the saints. May we always anticipate the heavenly things of Christ, while sharing the good news of God’s love for all people, so that whether alone or in a multitude, all humanity might grow in the fellowship of faith toward Jesus and love toward one another.

O Lord, hear our prayer

**And I will tell of your power**

*“Let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* Isaiah 55:7b

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **Blessing**

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that has been set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. May the God who makes sinners into saints bless us+, keep us, and give us peace, now and always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

If We Live, We Live to the Lord” sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

IF WE LIVE

Text & Music: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103; T&M © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. There are three trill ornaments (†) placed below the lyrics: one under "die," one under "wheth-er we die," and one under "we are the Lord's."

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Lenten Mid-Week Worship series:** “*The Lenten Journey: Dying and Rising with Christ*” During Lent, please join us online, Wednesdays (3/1-3/29), at 7 pm at St. Mark’s and live on Facebook, for the weekly worship series.

### Lenten Schedule

**Lenten Wednesday Supper** 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall

**Lenten Midweek Worship** 7 pm (in-person and online)

**Peace Lily and Sunburst donations** Peace Lilies are \$14 each. Please order by April 2. Sunburst donations and Lenten Box donations accepted until Easter. Forms are in the Gathering Place.

**Lenten Box Offerings:** We hope you are remembering your Lenten box and the infants who will be using the purchased car seats with our donations. These are infants of refugee families being aided by REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. As you place your donation in the box, please remember these newest members of our community and the sacrifice our Lord made for us.

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### “Faithful in Prayer”

#### Prayer of Patrick (c.390-c.460)

“I arise today through God’s strength to pilot me; God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s way to lie before me, God’s shield to protect me afar and anear, alone or in a multitude.”

#### Gregory I (the Great, c.540-604) “Lord God, We Praise You” ELW 558

Lord God, we praise you, now the night is over, active and watchful, standing here before you; singing, we offer prayer and meditation; thus we adore you.

Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions; banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending; bring us to heaven, where your saints united joy without ending.

All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit, Trinity blessed, send us your salvation; yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Ingrid Keiris, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, Marilyn Creech, Lisa White, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, and Susan Campbell.

Please feel free to email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))



*Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))*

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## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**  
[pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

**Lester Ackerman,**  
**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**  
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