



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 22, 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

“Improvisation on ‘Come Now, You Blessed’”

Tune by Emily R. Brink

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

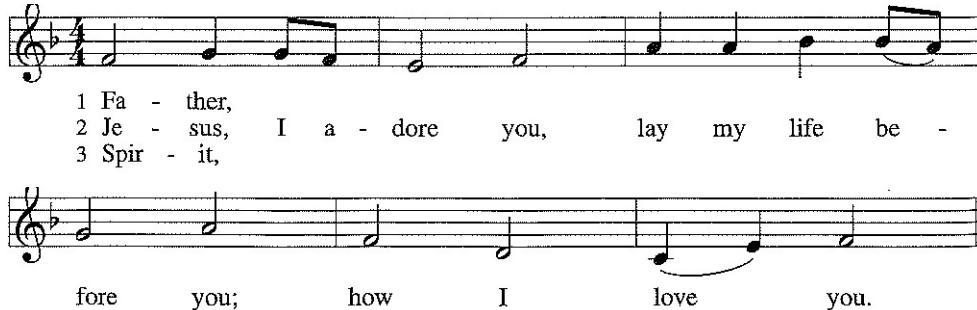
During this time of silence we quiet ourselves, entering into the mystery of God's presence. The beginning and the end of this period of silence is marked with the sound of a bell.

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.

“Striving for Justice”

Oscar Romero

Isaiah 58:6-10

(read responsively)

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say,

Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

Reading Matthew 25:31-40

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you

did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song

“Come Now, You Blessed” from *All Creation Sings*

MATTHEW 25

Text : Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Emily R. Brink, b. 1940 © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources

1 “Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,”
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 “When you gave bread to earth’s hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life’s road - ways,

said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war’s ref - u - gees.
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,

“When I. was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home - less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
When you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love.”
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these.”
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Lenten Meditation

“You did it to me”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Song

“Let Justice Flow like Streams” ELW 717

ST. THOMAS

1. Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
2. Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.
3. So may God’s plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926, ©1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press; Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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.*

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” Isaiah 58:6

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you. Help us to take up our cross, following you as Christ's body, by living lives of selfless service. Bless your servant church to be a missionary of your reconciling love so that in every nation your church might overcome the evil, violence and hatred of this world with the living power of Christ's love.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

Lord Jesus, you call us to give and to welcome. As we meet you in every person, open our hearts and our hands to more fully give food and drink to the hungry and thirsty, and open us more completely to welcome the stranger. Bless this congregation's Soup Kitchen, Room in the Inn, and social ministries, and bless all leaders, local and global, to loose the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

Lord Jesus, you call us to care for and to visit. As we meet you in caring for others, open us to experiencing your presence and healing by visiting those in need. Bless this congregation's Stephen Ministry and Kairos Prison Ministry caring for and visiting the sick, the dying, the lonely and the imprisoned. 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

Lord Jesus, you are shepherd of the nations. Help us to serve you in humble service following in the footsteps of the saints who gave their lives for you. May our lives, however imperfectly, reflect your perfect goodness and light, always shining in the darkness; and may you, hearing our call, always say, "Here I am," so that filled with your perfect freedom we might more perfectly love our neighbor.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40

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

The musical score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). 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 triplet of eighth notes in the second measure of the second staff and a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure of the third staff.

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; 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.

† † †

"Faithful in Prayer"

Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, martyr (1917-1980)

"In Christ God comes close to us. Christ has given us a standard: 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat'. When someone comes to your house asking for water, it is Christ who comes, if you see with the eyes of faith. When a sick person is longing for a visit, Christ tells you, 'I was sick or in prison and you came to visit me' (Matt 25:35-36)...If only we could see Christ in the needy, in the tortured, in the prisoner, in the murder victim; if only we could see Christ in every human form dumped so disgracefully along our highways, we would discover that it was Christ who was dumped there, and we would gather that precious treasure with tenderness; we would kiss him and never be ashamed of him." #191, March 16, 1980, Homily for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

"By Christian faith we know that at this moment the host of wheat becomes the body of the Lord who offered himself for the redemption of the world, and that the wine in this chalice is transformed into the blood that was the price of salvation. May this body that was immolated and this flesh that was sacrificed for humankind also nourish us so that we can give our bodies and our blood to suffering and pain, as Christ did, not for our own sake but to bring justice and peace to our people. Let us therefore join closely in faith and hope at this moment of prayer for Doña Sarita and ourselves. [At that moment, a shot rang out.] #193, March 24, 1980, *The Final Homily of Archbishop Romero*

"The church is a missionary of reconciliation, and her task is to tell one and all, despite their different options: 'Love one another, and be reconciled with God'." #191, March 16, 1980, *Homily for the Fourth Sunday in Lent*

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St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Christopher Shirley, Joan Love, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Jamie Bates, Jimmy Schwartz, John Simon, Dan Price, Roxi Tolbert, Susan Campbell, and Katie Yowell.

Please feel free to email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests
(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)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
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Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
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