



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known

✦ ✦ ✦

MARCH 26, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's gospel reveals Jesus' power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, we proclaim God's promise of resurrection. Live into the promise of baptism, that dying with Christ, we are raised with him daily to new life. You are a living sign of Christ alive in this world.

GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance.
The Offering will be brought forward by the ushers during the Offertory.
Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.*

Prelude

“Hymn of Promise”

Tune by Natalie Sleeth

Setting for handbells by Martha Lynn Thompson

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666

WONDROUS LOVE

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Arr. 1955 Augsburg Publishing

Please be seated.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ † , the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

“O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” from *All Creation Sings*
Christian Souza, cantor; Holy Communion Setting Eleven

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All

Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Musical Interlude

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Tune HAMBURG by Lowell Mason; Setting for handbells by Lloyd Larson

WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own

soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 130

Nick Matherly, Amy Woodall, cantors



I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

Psalm 130 (Robert Farlee) Psalm refrain reproduced for *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

¹*Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.* ²*Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!* ³*If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?* ⁴*But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.* ⁵*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;* ⁶*my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.* ⁷*O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.* ⁸*It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

Lisa Barnette, lector

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please be seated.

Gospel Acclamation

“Return to the Lord”

Anna Krentz Organ

Text: Joel 2:13; Music: © 2009 Augsburg Fortress



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci -



ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead-fast love.

The Holy Gospel

John 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified

through it.”⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?”⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.”¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Christ lives in you”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the
 2. There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our

seed, an ap - ple tree; in co - coons, a hid - den
 word and mel - o - dy; there's a dawn in ev - 'ry
 time, in - fin - i - ty; in our doubt there is be -

prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free! In the
 dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me. From the
 liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty. In our

cold and snow of win - ter there's a
 past will come the fu - ture; what it
 death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the

spring that waits to be,
 holds, a mys - ter - y, un - re - vealed un - til its
 last, a vic - to - ry,

sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 to the dead. 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

(Tom Tolbert, prayer assistant)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Lord of life, you have breathed into us the breath of life. Continually enliven your church with new life in the Spirit by deepening the partnerships of your church ecumenically, globally, and locally, so that in all of our relationships we might be of one mind and Spirit with Jesus Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of spring flowers, verdant grass, awakening trees, and everything that has life, teach us to live beyond mere appreciation of nature. Guide us to actions that protect and nurture all of your creation. You have given us years on this earth to enjoy its bounty. Help us not to plunder these vast resources, so that future generations also may enjoy spring flowers and be sustained by food and a renewed environment. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of peace, in Christ you give hope to all peoples and nations, unbinding and freeing us from the tomb of death. Guide nations and their leaders to live with the light and hope of Christ so that wars and violence cease, refugees and strangers find welcome, and all humanity sees that you love us all as one family. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of time and inestimable power, give us faith to hope beyond what we can see and trust your purpose as we await answers to our prayers. Nurture in us faith that will sustain us through confusion, danger, grief, delay, and loss. Give us courage to follow when we are afraid, mourn, feel alone, and cannot understand what you are doing. Keep your word ever present in our lives to give us hope that can sustain us through our darkest moments. Grant healing and encouragement to: 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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of the resurrection. Help us live into the promise of Jesus that though we die, we will live; enable us daily be living signs of the resurrection life of Christ Jesus, always offering hope and light to others on their journeys through life's darkest valleys. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of the impossible, revive us when we are like dry bones. Give us dreams, goals, zeal, fire, and enthusiasm founded in your word. Orient us to live beyond our past accomplishments and into energized futures. Shine your light on us; awaken us to purposeful lives according to your will. Stir up our spirits; give us the strength to accomplish the tasks you set before us. Breathe into us vitality to live according to your word, and to remain faithful to you, our Living Lord. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Peace

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING *(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance or during the offering as gathered by the ushers.)*

Anthem "Out of the Depths Have I Cried to Thee" (Psalm 130) Paul O. Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope; my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is redemption, and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Offertory *(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)*
"Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from you presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

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.

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.

Invitation

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by "Communion Kit" or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired

communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a “kit” please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music “Lamb of God” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Andante” from *Partita on “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

Tune by Carl G. Glaser; Organ setting by Mark Brampton Smith

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Tune by Lowell Mason

Setting for choir and organ by Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW 886

AZMON

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life and health and peace.
4. He speaks, and list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
5. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!
6. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv’n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Fugue in C Minor” BWV 549

Johann Sebastian Bach

† † †

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc & Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen, Sean Fielding; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Kevin & Karen Feezor, Janice Miller, Lisa Barnette, Susan Lakeman; communion helper: Karen Covington; nursery attendants: Charlotte Dixon, Tara Thompson; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir, St. Mark’s Handbells; Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team B; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Nick Wartner, Jay Jacob, Ken Hazen, Rebecca Huang; nursery attendants: Susan Ginns, Elsa Wartner; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Dianne Thomas

† † †

From the pastor -

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lent is the journey of forty days during which we are invited to renew ourselves in discipleship to Jesus, who calls us to self-denial and the way of the cross. Jesus' words about self-denial invite us to examine who we are in the most profound way. Who is this person I think I am? Who is this "self" I think I know well, yet remains elusive? The Lenten journey of forty days is an invitation to see and understand ourselves before Jesus' cross on the path that Jesus walks. Jesus lives raised in this world in service to others. To follow Jesus is not the work of a single day or even forty days. It is the discipleship of a lifetime. Lent provides an opportunity to sharpen our focus upon Jesus and his suffering love for humanity, so that freed from a desire for the things of this world, we might more fully live for Jesus in service to others. This Lent, led by Christ, may you rediscover his grace in our life together as St. Mark's serving others!

In the fellowship of Christ, Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Supper 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall, beginning March 1.

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

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, 8:30 am & 10:30 am, Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, Holy Communion

Good Friday, 7 pm, Service of the Word and Stripping of the Altar

Easter Day, 8:30 am & 10:30, Holy Communion (Coffee & goodies served 9:30-10:15 am)

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.

A CHANCE TO ASSIST LIFESPAN: This worthy organization offers education, employment and enrichment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities. It began right here at St. Mark's 50 years ago. They are having a health and wellness drive and reached out to us to participate. They are requesting -- full size men's and ladies deodorant, bath soap bars, pump hand soap, Lysol wipes, sanitary pads, sunscreen, hand sanitizer pump bottles, jars of vaseline, toenail clippers, facial tissue packets, chapstick, mouthwash, and disposable masks (no travel sizes or hotel freebies please). There are collection baskets in the gathering place for your donations of these much needed essentials for health and wellness. The baskets will remain there until April 27 when picked up by LIFESPAN. Please show your love and compassion for these challenged exceptional adults as we fill these baskets with our gifts to them.

Volunteers needed to answer the phone at the front desk, Monday-Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Please call or email if you would like to help. Thank you!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. Explore the life and faith of C. S. Lewis each Sunday at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. Examine Lewis's experiences with doubt, conversion, grief, and joy and how to apply those lessons today. Professor Michael Ward leads this video course based on Lewis's classic writings.

"Hybrid Worship" is both in-person and online worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this pandemic.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please Volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

2023 Stewardship Appeal

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2023 Offering Envelopes If you would like a box of

offering envelopes, please contact Jessie Craig at saintmarksfinance@gmail.com, or call the church office.

Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

Loaves and Fishes Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Announcements

Open Eyes Help Everyone! If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

AA meets Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"What Wondrous Love Is This" ELW 666 This anonymous folk hymn is from nineteenth-century America and is paired with the Southern Harmony (1835) tune WONDROUS LOVE. Each stanza presents a single thought, which is underscored by repetition. God's love is so great that he would give up his crown for a sinner's soul.

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Even though this hymn is not contained in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, it is available in companion denominational resources. Both the text and tune **HYMN OF PROMISE** were written in 1985 by American composer Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). She compares the mystery of new life in nature to the mystery of our death and resurrection. She writes: "one evening we entertained a friend, where he shared a work of T.S. Eliot in which there was a phrase something like 'In our end is our beginning'. That was the catalyst for the form of the text, which I wrote in the next day or two. I worked on the words very carefully, choosing just the right pairings, attempting to get across the idea of something inherent in something else even though unseen, and I even bought a tulip plant to contemplate the idea of the bulb leading to the flower even though the bulb itself seems dead."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

March 29, Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church (1771-1824)

Hans Nielsen Hauge was a Lutheran layperson who began preaching about "the living faith" in Norway and Denmark after a mystical experience that he lived called him to share the assurance of salvation to others. At the time, itinerant preaching and religious gatherings held without the supervision of a pastor were illegal, and Hauge was arrested several times. He also faced great personal suffering: his first wife died, and three of his four children died in infancy.

March 31, John Donne, poet (1527-1631)

This priest of the Church of England is commemorated for his poetry and spiritual writing. Most of his poetry was written before his ordination and is sacred and secular, intellectual and sensuous. He saw in his wife Anne, glimpses of the glory of God and human revelation of divine love. In 1615 he was ordained and seven years later he was named dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. By that time his reputation as a preacher was firmly in place. In his poem "Good Friday, 1613. Riding westward," he speaks of Jesus' death on the cross: "But by that Christ on his cross, did rise and fall, Sin had eternally benighted all. Yet dare I' almost be glad, I did not see that spectacle of too much weight for me. Who sees God's face, that is self life, must die; What a death were it then to see God die?"

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

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 email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 4/2/2023,

Palm Sunday

Processional Gospel: Matthew 2:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I

commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 27:11-54

Birthdays

3/26 Rob Johnson

3/28 Jackie Harms

3/30 Evan Wenzel

3/30 Olivia Grant

3/30 Paula Connolly



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

pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

lackerman2@aol.com

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

stmarkselca1001@gmail.com

Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

saintmarksfinance@gmail.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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