



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 8, 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

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

African American Spiritual; Piano setting by Fred Bock

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

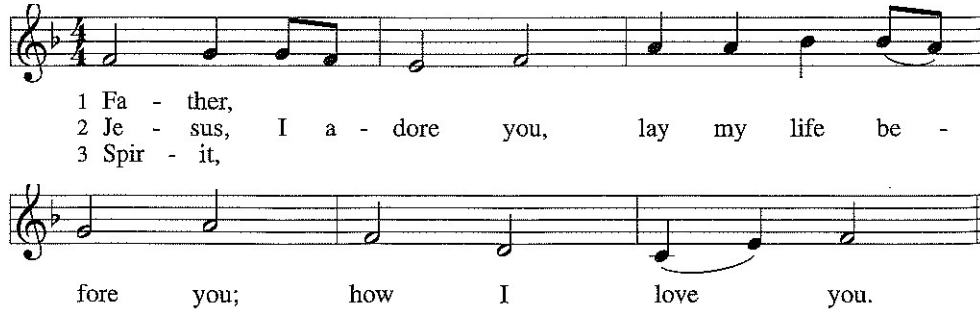
During this time of silence we quiet ourselves, entering into the mystery of God's presence. The beginning and the end of this period of silence is marked with the sound of a bell.

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.

“Perseverance with Endurance”

Perpetua and Felicity; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

Isaiah 61:1-4

(read responsively)

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Reading Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-14

Therefore, 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 is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” ELW 614

BALM IN GILEAD

Text & Music: African American spiritual

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*
2. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *Refrain*
3. Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

Lenten Meditation

"Look to Jesus"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Song

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" ELW 325

SOJOURNER

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text & Music: African American spiritual; Music arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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.

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed." Isaiah 61:1

Merciful God, you call us to follow you. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, embolden your church and all Christians to run the race that has been set before us with perseverance. Strengthen our hands and knees so that we might always look to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

Merciful God, you promise that Jesus suffers with us. Our Savior came so that the sick and lame might know the good news of healing, freedom, and release. Help us to remember and to care for all who suffer in any way. 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 pursue peace with everyone. Help us to lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, so that freed in Christ, we might bring good news to the oppressed. Anoint us in the power of the Spirit to work to end oppression, hatred, and discrimination of people for the color of their skin, their caste, gender, identity, or their faith.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

Merciful God, you call us to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Make straight paths for our feet that we might remember and work for the liberty and release of the captive and the prisoner, so that all who because of war, natural disaster or systemic poverty become homeless, orphaned, or refugees, might see their homes and homeland rebuilt, and know the joy of peace, community, and well-being with you and their neighbor.

O Lord, hear our prayer

And I will tell of your power

Jesus said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:21

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

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we

die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or



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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)

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: If you have not yet received a Lenten box and would like one, they are on the gathering place desk along with a letter explaining this year's recipient - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Your donations will provide infant car seats for babies of recently arrived refugees. Put your name on the box and during Lent donate loose change, paper money or simply write a check made out to St. Mark's, and deposit into the box. Place the box where it will be a daily reminder of Jesus' journey to the cross and ultimate sacrifice for us. Please return to church before Easter.

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"Perseverance with Endurance"

March 7, Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs at Carthage, died c. 202

Felicity:

"Now it is I that suffer what I suffer; but then there will be another in me, who will suffer for me, because I also am about to suffer for Him." (*The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas*, c. 203)

March 10, renewers of society

Sojourner Truth (c. 1797-1883):

"Children, who made your skin white? Was it not God? Who made mine black? Was it not the same God? Am I to blame, therefore, because my skin is black?... Does not God love colored children as well as white children? And did not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other?" (*The Great Sin of Prejudice against Color*, 1863)

Harriet Tubman (1827-1913):

"Long ago when the Lord told me to go free my people I said, 'No, Lord! I can't go. Don't ask me.' But He came another time, and I said again, 'Lord, go away. Get some better-educated person. Get a person with more culture than I have.' But He came back a third time, and spoke to me as He did to Moses. He said, 'Harriet, I want you.' And I knew then I must do what He bid me do." (James A. McGowan, *Harriet Tubman: A Biography*, 2011).

