



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 20, 2024

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

7:00 PM

Holy Lament: God's Presence in Times of Distress

This year's midweek series theme is "Holy Lament: God's Presence in Times of Distress," remembering that in our laments of grief, regret and mourning, Jesus Christ strengthens us in our weakness. We live in a world that is not only divided and at war, increasingly humanity lives without a sense of optimism and hope for the future. Amid the doubts and fears of modern life - out of our laments - God's steadfast love unceasingly offers us hope and strength that we might boast in our weakness and in the power of Jesus' cross. God bless you on your Lenten journey.

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

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude

"Prelude on 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness'"

Tune FAITHFULNESS by William M. Runyan
Organ setting from *Three Gospel Favorites* by Dan Miller

Welcome

Opening Litany

The prophet Joel calls us to return to the Lord with all our hearts.

Lord, use this holy season of Lent to renew our lives in you.

As we raise our voices in lament,

comfort us and give us cause for hope.

Bless our worship, our work, and our play.

Guide us with your Spirit, that we may follow where you lead in confidence and trust.

Please stand as able.

Gathering Song

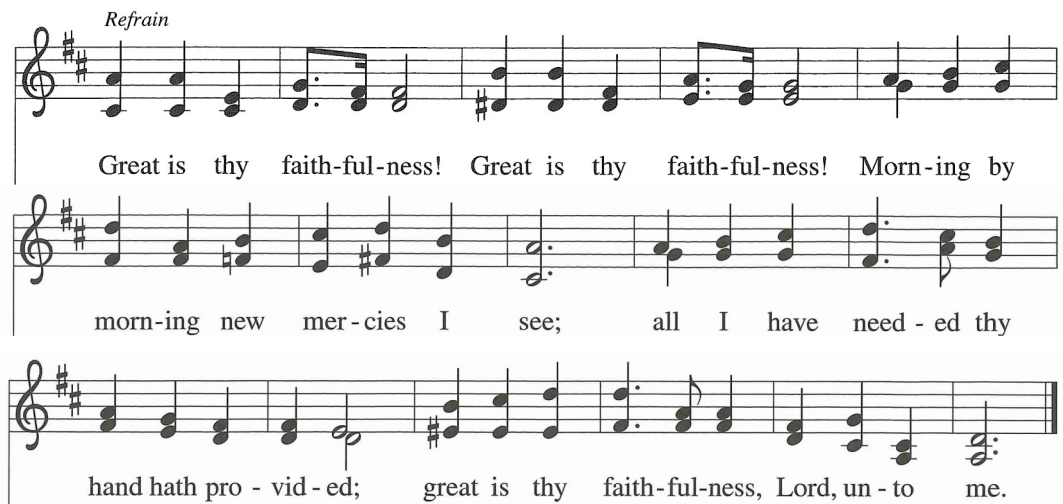
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" ELW 733 Stanza one

FAITHFULNESS

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960; Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957; T&M: 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

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. Holy and merciful God, in times of distress, turn our hearts and minds toward you. Let our communal laments be signs to those around us that we worship you, a God who hears and holds our cries. As we lament together in community, may we provide space to all searching for ways to voice their own pain and grief. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.
 "Communal Lament"

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.

Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17

(read responsively)

¹We have heard with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

²**you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;**

³for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm give them victory, but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance, for you delighted in them.

⁴**You are my King and my God; you command victories for Jacob.**

⁵Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down our assailants.

⁶**For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me.**

⁷But you have saved us from our foes, and have put to confusion those who hate us.

⁸**In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.**

⁹Yet you have rejected us and shamed us and have not gone out with our armies.

¹⁰**You made us turn back from the foe, and our enemies have gotten spoil.**

¹³You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.
¹⁷All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten you or been false to your covenant.

Reading Luke 19:41-44

⁴¹As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Meditation

“The hiddenness of God”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Song

“Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult” ELW 696 Stanzas 1-4

GALILEE

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 sound - ing, say - ing, “Chris - tian, fol - low me”:
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, “Chris - tian, love me more.”
 plea - sures, “Chris - tian, love me more than these.”

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

PRAYER

The Holy Spirit prays with and through us.

Prayers of Intercession

(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.*

“If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:42)

All: God of grace, All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten your covenant. Hear the cries of your church, and grant us strength and courage to boast in you, always giving thanks to your name so that the nations might know your steadfast love. Rise up, O Lord, come to our help.

Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

All: Lord of hope, Afflicted people and nations lift their cries to you daily. Set them free from their illness, trauma and loneliness. Remove the scorn and derision they feel from their neighbors and in the name of your covenant restore humanity to the shalom of life in community with you. Rise up, O Lord, come to our help.

Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

All: God of grace, The nations and peoples sink down to the dust and their bodies cling to the ground. Help governments and leaders to recognize and do the things that make for peace. Set your people free from war, hatred and violence that they might bless your name with songs of peace. Rise up, O Lord, come to our help.

Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

All: Lord of hope, You know the secrets of the heart and give wisdom to the mind. Hide not your face from us, but redeem us like your saints and martyrs that we might witness throughout our lives to your faithfulness. Help us to say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” Rise up, O Lord, come to our help.

Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

“We have heard with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old.” (Psalm 44:1)

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

(musical setting by Michael Austin Miller)

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heav'n.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us of our sins
as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glor - y are yours,
 now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Please stand.

SENDING

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

Blessing

The Lord watches over your going out and your coming in. The Lord shields your joys and holds your sorrows. God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW 697, Stanzas 1 & 2

CLOSER WALK

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

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares. if I fal - ter. Lord, who cares?
 dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

† † †

This service adapted/reprinted from *All Creation Sings*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI Copyright Coverage License # 11377824
 Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; Musicians: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Holy Week Schedule

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

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, 7 pm, Service of the Word and Procession of the Cross

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 \$12 each. Please order by this Sunday, March 24. Sunburst donations and Lenten Box donations accepted until Easter. Forms are in the Gathering Place.

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available in the Gathering Place. Make Lent a time for prayer.

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: We hope you are remembering your Lenten box and the infants who will be receive the care kits 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. *Lenten boxes are available in the Gathering Place.*



St. Mark's Prayer List

Linda Wiland, Grey Hamilton, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ben Watson, Tina Wiland, Martha Stackel, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Carl Sepmeyer, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, Virginia Stackel, David Mathis, and Jay Harbinson.

*Please feel free to email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests
(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)*



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 (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



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, Financial Administrator
saintmarksfinance@gmail.com