



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 6, 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 'O God, Why Are You Silent'"

Tune HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN by Hans Leo Hassler

Organ setting by Michael Burkhardt

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

"When We Are Tested" ACS 922 from *All Creation Sings*

SLANE

Text & Music: © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc. admin. The Copyright Co.



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

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. God of mercy, sometimes our grief feels too heavy to bear. In those moments, remind us of your presence. Let us receive the good news that nothing in this world has the power or strength to come between us and the love of Christ. Give us courage to offer our lament to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.
“Laments from the Depths”

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 88

(read responsively)

¹O Lord, God of my salvation, at night, when I cry out before you,

²**let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.**

³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴**I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,**

⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶**You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.**

⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah*

⁸**You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;**

⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰**Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? *Selah***

¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

12Are your wonders known in the darkness or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

13But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

14O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?

15Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

16Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.

17They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.

18You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Reading Mark 14:32-36

32They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33**He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34**And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” **35**And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36**He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Meditation

“O Lord, why?”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Song

“O God, Why Are You Silent” ELW 703 Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612

1 O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not hear your voice;
2 My hope lies bruised and bat - tered, my wound-ed heart is torn;
3 Through end - less nights of weep - ing, through wea - ry days of grief,
the proud and strong and vio - lent all claim you and re - joice;
my spir - it spent and shat - tered by life's re - lent - less storm;
my heart is in your keep - ing, my com - fort, my re - lief.
you prom-ised you would hold me with ten - der - ness and care.
will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep with - in?
Come, share my tears and sad - ness, come, suf - fer in my pain,
Draw near, O Love, en - fold me, and ease the pain I bear.
Have you no word to cheer me when night is clos - ing in?
oh, bring me home to glad - ness, re - store my hope a - gain.

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.*

“O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?” (Psalm 88:14)

All: God of grace, Let the prayers of your church come before you and incline your ear to our cries. We remember all who are alone, forgotten, and without friendship. May they again know your saving grace and the warmth of loving community. For you all things are possible; remove this cup of suffering.

Yet not what I want, O Lord, but what you want.

All: Lord of hope, Morning, day, and night the cries of the sick, the despairing, and the dying come before you. Bless all who suffer that they might know they are never far from your grace and love; restore them to health, hope, and new life in you. For you all things are possible; remove this cup of suffering.

Yet not what I want, O Lord, but what you want.

All: God of grace, The world suffers wave after wave of hatred, violence, and war, and communities have been plunged into the depths of the Pit; work peace among nations and their leaders that all people might again know your steadfast love and the joy of life together. For you all things are possible; remove this cup of suffering.

Yet not what I want, O Lord, but what you want.

All: Lord of hope, Fear lies heavy upon humanity and we are overwhelmed with sorrow. Save us from the darkness of death and the land of forgetfulness. We spread out our hands to you, prepare a place for us and for all people in your heavenly kingdom. For you all things are possible; remove this cup of suffering.

Yet not what I want, O Lord, but what you want.

“Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.” (Psalm 88:2)

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.



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

Lenten Mid-Week Worship series: "*Holy Lament: God's Presence in Times of Distress*" During Lent, please join us online, Wednesdays (2/21-3/20), at 7 pm at St. Mark's and live on Facebook, for the weekly worship series.

Lenten Schedule February 21-March 20

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

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

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

LENTE BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. One of our small sacrifices during this period is our donations into a small Lenten box. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES. Infant care kits will be purchased for the little ones of our recently arrived refugees. Be sure to put your name on the box along with your envelope number if you have one. Donations can be made several ways - daily loose change, paper money, or simply write a check to St. Mark's and put it in the box. Keep the box where you can see it as a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and the infants we will be helping. Please return to church before Easter. *Lenten Boxes are available in the Gathering Place.*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Angie Blackwelder Malone, Greg Bruce, Linda Carter, Drew Goodson, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Michael Frye, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Sarah Lindberg, Danye 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 (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)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
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