



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 12, 2025

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

7:00 PM

The theme of this year's Lenten midweek prayer is "The Incarnate Senses: Christ dwells in you." Born to live among us, Jesus Christ dwells fully in our humanity. He is alive in our senses, helping us point to him in sight, sound, scent, touch and taste. Faith is the power alive within us that understands the world through our senses, and also goes beyond them, offering us another way of knowing. As Paul writes, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20a), so that he who is beyond all things sees and touches the world through each of us.

*Lenten offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.
The congregation is invited to join in the **BOLD** responses.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude

"Improvisation on 'Come and See'"

Tune COME AND SEE by Robert A. Hobby

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 offer ourselves to you during this season of Lent,

use us, our senses, intellect and faith to be Christ in this world.

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

"Be Thou My Vision" ELW 793

SLANE

Text Irish, 8th cen.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935; alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 incarnate,
You have given us eyes to see your presence and love in the details of creation and in the creativity of those made in your image. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive the gifts you have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection and song.
“Sight”

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 69:30-36

(read responsively)

³⁰I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

³¹**This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.**

³²Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

³³**For the LORD hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds.**

³⁴Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

³⁵**For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and his servants shall live there and possess it;**

³⁶the children of his servants shall inherit it,

³⁶**and those who love his name shall live in it.**

Reading Luke 19:1-10

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came

to seek out and to save the lost.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Meditation

“Sight: to see the world as Jesus does”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

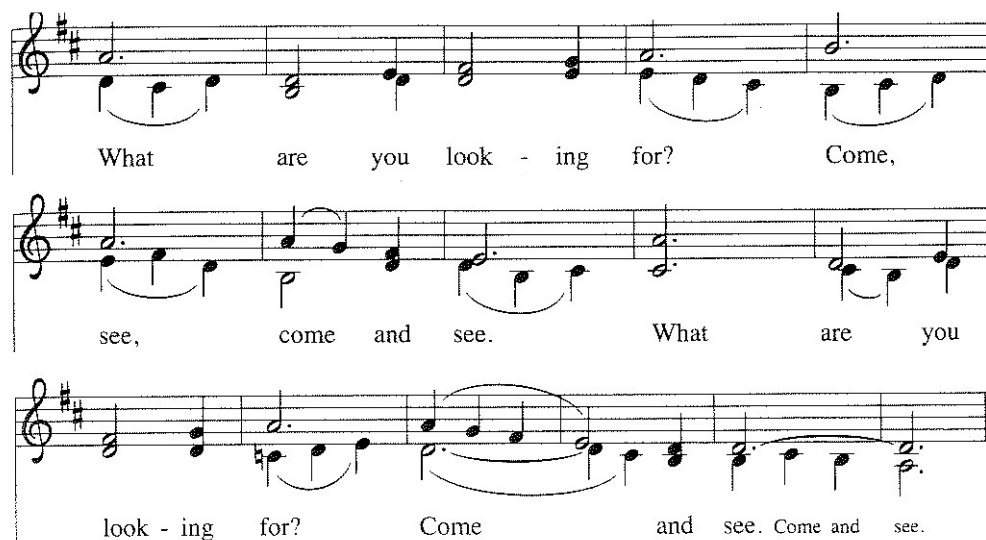
Please stand as able.

Song

“Come and See” ACS 976 sing two times, from *All Creation Sings*

COME AND SEE

Text & Music: Robert A Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39; T&M © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



Please be seated.

PRAYER

The Holy Spirit prays with and through us.

Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

“You who seek God, let your hearts revive.” (Psalm 69:32b)

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.

All seeing God, you see us in our need and come to us. Bless your church with insight into your word that seeing the needs of the world we might minister to it so that all who are in need might see your love. Let us magnify him with thanksgiving.

Let heaven and earth praise God.

All knowing God, you see the poor, oppressed and afflicted. Bless and heal all who seek you in sickness, grief, and loneliness with healing, hope, and joy. Let us magnify him with thanksgiving.
Let heaven and earth praise God.

All seeing God, do not turn away from us who are in sin and death. Restore peace to our world

and grant insight and hope to the leaders of all nations to work for peace, care for refugees, and to end the persecution of those who are seen as different. Let us magnify him with thanksgiving. Let heaven and earth praise God.

All knowing God, you see how humanity continues to destroy creation and lay waste to cities. In your compassion, grant to us the vision to restore creation, give to the poor, and to rebuild four-fold the damage we have done to our neighbors. Let us magnify him with thanksgiving. Let heaven and earth praise God.

“For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, seen and unseen, 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 as able.

SENDING

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

Blessing

May the Creator God, who made you whole,
Bless you in body and spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“God, Who Made the Earth and Darkness” ELW 564, Stanzas 1 & 2

AR HYD Y NOS

Text Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811-1873, sts. 2,4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787-1863, st. 3, alt.
Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; Arr. © Oxford University Press

1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, dark - ness and light:
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us to run life's way,

you the day for work have giv - en, for rest the night.
may we still, what - e'er be - fall us, your will o - bey.

May your an - gel guards de - fend us, slum-ber sweet your mer - cy send us,
From the pow'r of e - vil hide us, in the nar - row path - way guide us,



Dismissal

Go in peace to share the love of Christ who is incarnate in you.

Thanks be to God.

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

Lenten Mid-Week Worship series: *"The Incarnate Senses: Christ dwells in you"* During Lent, please join us online, Wednesdays (3/12-4/9), at 7 pm at St. Mark's and live on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutherancharlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>) for the weekly worship series.

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Wednesday Supper 6 pm-6:45 pm Fellowship Hall March 12 - April 9.

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

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

LENTEN 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. Boxes were passed out last Wednesday and will be available after the service again today. The letter with the boxes explains the recipient of this year's donations - our focus is QC Family Tree, a faith-based organization providing affordable housing. 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.*

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St. Mark's Prayer List

Jerry Poplin, Satoko Yamada, John Simon, Judy Cox, Mike Doyne, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, 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

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Financial Administrator

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