



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2026
LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER
7:00 PM

The theme of this year's Lenten midweek prayer is "Holy Conversations with Jesus." The Sunday lectionary for Lent reveals Jesus in conversation with both friends and adversaries. Lent's first Sunday finds him confronting God's ancient adversary in Matthew's account of the temptation.

*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

Holy Conversations with Jesus: Wilderness

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude

"Improvisation on "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am""

Tune by John L. Bell; Organ setting by David P. Dahl

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Gathering Litany

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.

Please stand as able.

Gathering Song

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am" ELW 814 sing two times

TAKE ME AS I AM

Text & Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949 © 1995 Iona Community, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in 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.

Though we seek to walk in faithfulness, O God, the tempter's wild wilderness sets traps along our path. Strengthen your living word within us, that we may remain true to Christ, our way, our truth, our life. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

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.

Reading Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Meditation

"Conversations in the Wilderness"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

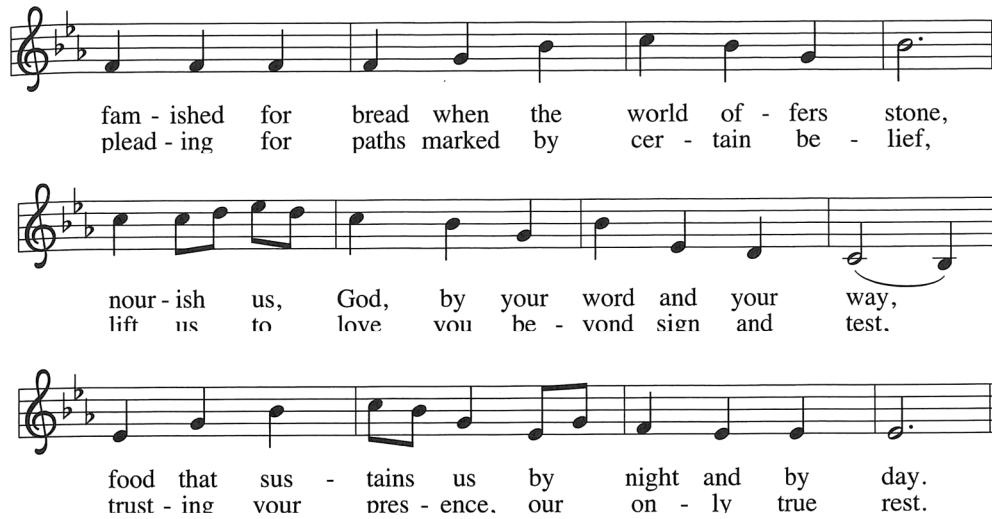
Song

"When We Are Tested" ACS 922 stanzas 1 & 2

SLANE

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © 1996 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: Irish traditional

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test.

food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence. our on - ly true rest.

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.

“One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

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.

Faithful God, you see us in our need and come to us in the wilderness. 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 experience your grace, love and peace. Lord, protect us and all people this night,
that we might live for you tomorrow.

Word of life, you see the poor, oppressed and afflicted in the wilderness. Bless and heal all who cry out to you in sickness, grief, and loneliness with healing, hope, and joy, and strengthen all who care for and walk with them in the wilderness. Lord, protect us and all people this night,
that we might live for you tomorrow.

Faithful God, you see the world in the wilderness of war and strife. 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 oppression of the poor. Bless us to care for and lift all people in our community who seek welcome and inclusion. Lord, protect us and all people this night,
that we might live for you tomorrow.

Word of life, you see creation turned into a wilderness through greed and neglect. We confess that we continue to destroy creation and lay waste to cities. In your compassion, grant to us the vision to restore

creation, give to the poor, and rebuild the damage we have done to our neighbors. Lord, protect us and all people this night,
that we might live for you tomorrow.

“The Lord your God you shall fear, him you shall serve.” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

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 love of the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, speak to you, dwell in you, and bless you, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319

CONSOLATION

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930; © 1978 *Lutheran book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music: A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003⁷ Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ” BWV 639

Johann Sebastian Bach

‡ ‡ ‡

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; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; Musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Lenten Mid-Week Worship series: *“Holy Conversations with Jesus”* During Lent, please join us online, Wednesdays (2/25-3/25), 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 2/25-3/25.

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. Lenten boxes are in the Gathering Place along with a letter noting that our donations will help support NAMI Charlotte (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Please construct it with your name on it and put it in a visible location to remind you daily of Jesus’ sacrifice for you. We will not accept coins but will accept bills or simply a check made out to St. Mark’s. Donations can also be made online. Please return your boxes by Easter.

‡ ‡ ‡

St. Mark's Prayer List

James Watson, Bonnie Sauer, Sarah East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Mark Thornton, Polly Needham, Tom Tolbert, Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Silvia Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner & Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, 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

Rev. Ali Rode, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Financial Administrator

finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185