



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 11, 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 friends, foreigners, and even adversaries. In tonight's reading from John, Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well and offers her "living water." Changed by her conversation with him, she left her water jar at the well, and went to tell others about Jesus. She could leave her water jar behind because she now carried in her "a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

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: The Woman at the Well

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude

"Cortege" from *Cortege and Litanie*, Op. 19, No. 2

Marcel Dupre

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.

**Saving God, we thirst for living water and seek the one who gives it. Make us ready to receive the one who brings new life, that we may drink deeply from the cup of salvation, through Christ, our wellspring and fountain. 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     **John 4:5-30, 39-42**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly

the Savior of the world.  
*The Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Lenten Meditation**

*“Conversations at the well”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Song**

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” ELW 777 stanzas 1 & 2 BEACH SPRING

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN  
Music: The Sacred harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

1 “Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.  
2 “Come to me. all trav-'lers wea - rv: come that I mav give you rest.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live.”  
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest.”

*Refrain*

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

*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.*

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.

*“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.” (John 4:13-14)*

Word of life, you meet us in our thirst and need always giving springs of water gushing up to eternal life. Bless your church in every nation to be a spring of living water for all people regardless of who they are. As your grace flows in the waters of baptism, may we live sacramentally always sharing Jesus, our tables, water and food, with all in need. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

Faithful God, as you met the Samaritan woman at the well, continue to meet the peoples of this world who come to you with their stories and burdens, and who ask you for “living water” in their sickness,

grief, and loneliness. As you restored the woman at the well, restore all who call upon you for wholeness and health. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

Word of life, your grace covers the world with love and yet we live in a world of misunderstanding, violence, and war. As you met the Samaritan woman in conversation with insight and living water, so too grant the blessing of insight to the leaders of this nation and all nations to converse together, to reach mutual understanding, to work for peace, and to lift and encourage the poor and the oppressed. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

Faithful God, lead each of us more deeply into your word and the life of prayer during Lent. Help us in our conversations with you so that we too might always have the water that Jesus offers. Refresh us with your presence and renew us in your love so that we might welcome and accept others who, though different from us, are also your beloved children. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

*“They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.’” (John 4:42)*

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, 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

“I heard the Voice of Jesus Say” ELW 611 stanza 1 & 2

KINGSFOLD

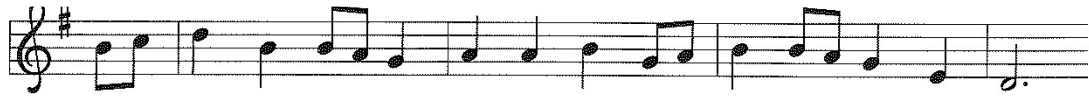
Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; Music: English folk tune



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter. thirst - v one: stoon down and drink and live."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream:



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” from *Interpretations Based on Hymn-Tunes*

Sacred Harp tune BEACH SPRING, setting for organ by David Cherwien



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; 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 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 no longer accept coins but still 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, 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, Danye 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](mailto: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](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))



## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Rev. Ali Rode, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Financial Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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