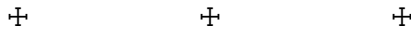




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



MARCH 18, 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 man who was blind from birth. Born without sight the nameless man became first a topic of conversation, later a witness of conversion. We are often surprised by fellows we meet along life's pathways, and sometimes the people we meet surprise us more than we expect by leaving us transformed with new vision.*

*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 Man Born Blind

*The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.*

Prelude

"Improvisation on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light""

Tune HOUSTON by Kathleen Thomerson  
Setting for organ by Wayne L. Wold

Welcome

Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode

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.

**God of power, you work wonders for those who seek you in faith. Show us your grace where we least expect it, that we may praise you for your boundless love and give thanks for your saving help in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 9:1-11

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Lenten Meditation

*"Conversations along the way"*

Pastor Ali Rode

*Please stand as able.*

## Song

"We Walk by Faith" ELW 635 stanzas 1, 2 & 3

SHANTI

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - jice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYER

*The Holy Spirit prays with and through us.*

### Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor Rode, 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.

*"But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'" (John 9:10)*

Word of life, you call us from our comfort onto streets, sidewalks, pathways where you lead us in healing ministry. May we embody you as the Church in the routes we tread, using the ministry of presence to bless those who we encounter. May our covenantal relationships be transformational through your power. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

Faithful God, as you gave sight to the man born blind and responded to the disciples who were filled with questions, continue to open our eyes so that we may serve in ministry across cultural understanding, disability, and social caste. Help us be faithful in responding in life-giving ways to our community. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

Word of life, you are the light of the world. Guide us beyond our warring factions which seek to destruct and destroy. May light shine in the darkness so our gloom might be like the noonday. Give vision and insight to world leaders, that they might lead in paths of peace and reconciliation. 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 be aware of the works you reveal within us. Renew us with your holy perspective, and encourage us as bold witnesses like the man born blind, so that we might together build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Lord, protect us and all people this night,  
**that we might live for you tomorrow.**

*"He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread in on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight.'" (John 9:11)*

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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ELW 815 stanzas 1 & 2

HOUSTON

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

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
*Refrain*  
In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the  
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the  
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

“Duo” from *Suite on the Second Ton*

Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

✚                      ✚                      ✚

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, 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.



The poster features a background of green palm fronds. On the left, the text "Spring Events at St. Mark's" is written in a white, cursive font. Below this, the phrase "God is always with us" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, a white rounded rectangle contains a list of events in a black, sans-serif font. The events listed are: Sunday Worship February 22 - March 22 (8:30 am and 10:30 am); Lenten Midweek Prayer February 25 - March 25 (Lenten Wednesday Supper 6-6:45 pm, Lenten Wednesday Prayer Service, 7 pm); Carolina Pro Musica March 20 (7:30 pm "Celebrating America's 250!"); Charlotte Flute Association Recital March 22 (2:30 pm, Sanctuary); Japanese Spring Festival March 28 (3 - 6 pm Fellowship Hall); Palm Sunday March 29 (8:30/10:30 am, Blessing of Palms, 10:30: St. Mark's Choir, St. Mark's Handbells and Bagpipe); Senior Voice Recital March 29 (5:30 pm Jack Richardson). A note at the bottom of the rectangle states "(7 pm and 10:30 am services live on YouTube, St. Mark's website & Facebook)".

## 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)

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | [saintmarkscharlotte.org](http://saintmarkscharlotte.org) | 704.375.9185**