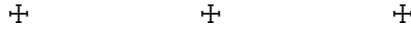




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



MARCH 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 friends, foreigners, adversaries, as well as those who grieve in the face of death. In tonight's reading from John, Jesus talks with Martha and Mary saying, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus lives raised to offer us new life, every minute of every day.

*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: Mary, Martha and Lazarus

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

Prelude "Larghetto" from *Variations on 'Wondrous Love'* Southern Harmony tune
Setting for organ by Robert Lau

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.

Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 11:1-6, 17-27, 38-44**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Song

“Healer of Our Every Ill” ELW 612

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

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.

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:21)

Word of life, you meet us in our grief and weakness with holy conversation and the promise of resurrection and new life. Bless your church around the world to be open to conversations with all people, always sharing the hope that is within us so that others might also know the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ, for you have come into the world not to condemn it but to give life. Lord, protect us and all people this night,

that we might live for you tomorrow.

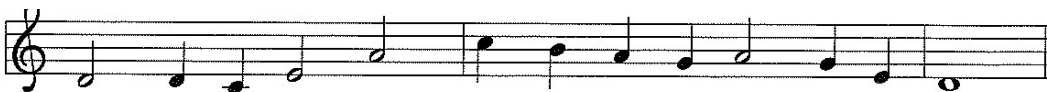
Faithful God, as you met Martha and Mary at the tomb of their brother, continue to meet the peoples of



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb.



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Moderato” from *Variations on ‘Wondrous Love’*

Southern Harmony tune

Setting for organ by Robert Lau



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

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am, Blessing of Palms and Holy Communion, St. Mark's Choir, Handbells, Cantors and Bagpipe.

Senior Recital Jack Richardson 5:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday 7 pm (in-person and online), Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar, St. Mark's Choir, Cantors and Cello.

Good Friday 7 pm (in-person and online), Service of the Word and Procession of the Cross.

Easter Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am, Holy Communion, St. Mark's Choir, Cantors, Brass Quintet, Timpani & Organ (Coffee & goodies served 9:30-10:15 am; Easter egg hunt 9:45am)

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

Peace Lily Orders, Sunburst Wreath and Lenten Box Donations Printed forms are available in the Gathering Place. Order lilies by Wednesday morning, 4/1 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

LENTEN BOX OFFERINGS: During Lent we focus on Jesus' path to the cross and his sacrifice for us. 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, 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, Danyne & Bonnie 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