



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 16, 2025

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAMILTON, NJ**

*A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament
proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ
through worship, nurture, and service.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent, a forty-day time of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. This season, our worship focuses on what we need, what our neighbors need, and how God meets us. In the gospel reading, the exhausted disciples fall asleep during Jesus' transfiguration, and we learn about our own need for sleep.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, I confess
that I struggle to confess.
I want to delight you by doing all the right things.
I don't want to admit that I can't.
To receive your forgiveness,
I must confront my failure.

God, I confess
that I struggle to confess:
just like I turn away from my own vulnerability
I turn away from the vulnerable.
I have rejected my weakness
and avoided those who are weak.
I have denied my frailty
and looked down on those who are frail.
I have resisted my dependence
and thought less of those who depend on others.

God, forgive us,
because we struggle to forgive ourselves.
We build a wall of self-reliance
that separates us from your love.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus once said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician." Jesus' power is made perfect in our weakness. In Christ's name, + I tell you that you are completely and entirely forgiven. You are imperfect, and you are forgiven, and you are loved.

Amen.



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Incandescent Christ, signs of your presence fill the world with brightness, but we are weighed down with sleep. Guide our waking and guard our sleeping, so that we will rest soundly in dreams of the world you envision and wake to refract your glory in all that we do. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ God brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then God said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then God said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ God said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ He brought God all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1-6, 13-14

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing
and make music | to the LORD.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD

in the land | of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD | and be strong.**

Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Siblings, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1} Therefore, my siblings, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

This is the good news of the Gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please stand as you are comfortable.



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnerships with local, statewide, and national partners.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

OFFERING HYMN

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

ELW 188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

God, you gave us what we needed to love you today.

**Now we offer you a portion of these gifts,
a harvest of the love you planted.**

God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.

Bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

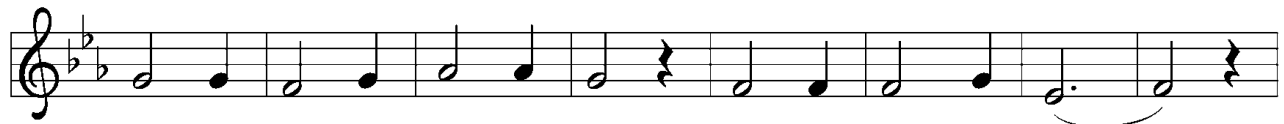
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is not only right, but even needful
for us to thank you, God,
for the cosmos overflows with your goodness.
You open your hand to satisfy the needs
of everything that you have made,
and all of creation sings its thankful praise.
And so we join the echoing song:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



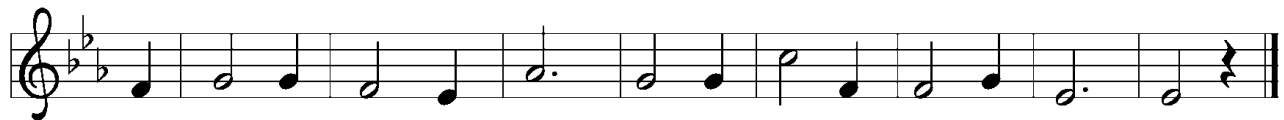
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, O God,
brimming with your extravagant love.

In the beginning you created,
not because you needed to
but because it delighted you:

**you made the textures of feathers and fur,
the fragrance of pine and saltwater,
glinting minerals and sparkling stars,
humankind in gorgeous diversity.**

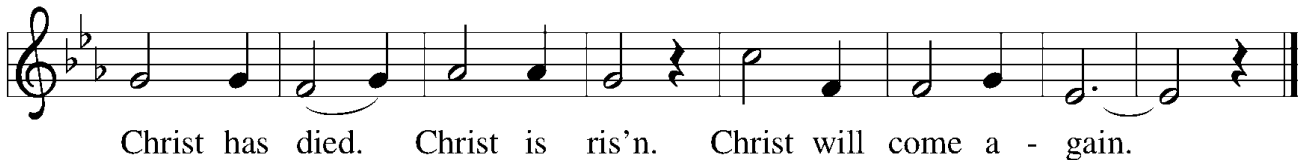
You became like us in Jesus Christ,
whose life magnified the abundance of your grace
and the lavishness of your love.

**He saw the richness of a widow's pennies
and the surpassing fineness of a lily's petals
and the towering greatness of a mustard seed
and fed thousands with five loaves and two fish.**

On the night of his arrest,
he gathered his friends for a simple meal
and set a feast of love.
He took bread, gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

And so we remember:



Extravagant God, pour out your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup.
Let the fragrance of your love fill this house.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our noses with the sweetness of grapes and the earthiness of grain.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let it fill our hearts as lavish compassion for the little, the lost, and the least.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Let this bread and cup magnify your prodigal love,
mirroring the heavenly feast that has no end.
Bring us at last to the infinite table
where you have gathered all your holy ones
in the new creation where every tear is wiped away,
and every need has been met in you.

All honor and glory is yours, O God,
who is both Giver and Gift,
with the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

At St. Mark, we share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers and with red wine and red grape juice.

Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of age, religious background, or life experience.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

OH, LOVE, HOW DEEP

ELW 322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, you have fed us with the bread that has no price, the precious gift of your own self. Now send us out like Mary with her perfume, prepared to give the best we have to dignify the world you so loved. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Now God,

who gave us the Sabbath,

who + slept during the storm at sea,

who guards our sleep and shepherds our rest,

blesses you and sustains you.

Today God has answered your need,

and now the Spirit sends you out

to answer the world's need.

Amen.

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Lector: Karen Breninghouse
Communion Assistant: Karen Breninghouse
Ushers: Haig Kasabach and Leon Boyer
Livestream Operator: Eileen Mansfield
Altar Guild: Tim Hoh and Nadine Mileski
Pastor: Rev. Linnéa K. Clark
Church Administrator: Robin Harris
Minister of Music: John Kling
Ministers: People of St. Mark

Worship with Us

We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service) and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). During Lent, our Wednesday evenings begin with a simple supper of soup and bread at 5:45 pm, and our service uses Holden Evening Prayer. We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.

Serve with Us

We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 15,500th lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse (kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.

Contact Us

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.

You can also find us online at stmarkhamilton.org and at facebook.com/stmarkhamilton.

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