

Mid-Week Lent 2020

Midweek Lenten Service

March 25, 2020

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

❖ ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES:

- A **staffed nursery** is located in the back of the church lobby.
- A **privacy room**, especially reserved for nursing mothers, is located on the east side of the church entryway.
- **Activity sheets for children** can be picked up on the Information Center's shelf in the church lobby.



❖ HEARING AND READING ASSISTANCE:

- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available on the entryway wall near the sanctuary's west entrance door. The sanctuary is also *looped* for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.
- We also have **large print service booklets** that you can pick up on the shelf under the Information Center bulletin board in the church lobby



❖ CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER:

- A **connection card** has been handed to you by one of the ushers. Please complete the appropriate side of the card and pass it toward the center aisle to the usher at the end of the offering.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: In the Gospel of John, chapter 20, we are told, “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” It is because of this truth we are gathered here once again to hear how Jesus Christ has made such a life possible. It was not an easy feat. The way to our having a life that goes beyond the day to day routines of this life and which holds certainty beyond this life came at a great price. Jesus had to die, or we were going to end up dead. This is important because there is a death beyond the physical. The death Jesus enables us to be free from meant he had to go to war. During this time of Lent we will be looking at, from various vantage points, this war he entered so we could have life in his name. The Lord deepen your appreciation for this life you have been given as you hear for the first time or the how many times the length Jesus was willing to go with you in mind. **THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR.**

OPENING HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted
Christian Worship # 127

*Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.*

*Tell me, as you hear him groaning, Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him, None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him Was the stroke that Justice gave.*

*If you think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed; See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.*

*Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded Who on him their hope have built.*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PASSION READING ... See [Link](#)

SEASONAL RESPONSE

**All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
By His wounds we are healed.**

HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

Christian Worship # 453

*“Come, follow me,” the Savior spoke, “All in my way abiding.
Deny yourselves; the world forsake; Obey my call and guiding.
Oh, bear the cross, whate’er betide; Take my example for your guide.*

*“I am the light; I light the way, A godly life displaying.
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you should journey here below.*

*“My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing,
And gracious words my lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all To God I yield; on him I call.*

*“I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your souls’ salvation,
Your hearts from ev’ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”*

*Then let us follow Christ our Lord And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to his Word, In suff’ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain The crown of heav’nly life obtain.*

SERMON

Based on John 6:66-68

“The Son of God Goes Forth to War – The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers”

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

THANK OFFERING

Please mail your contributions in or you can donate here online. Thank you.

PRAAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: **We confess that without your love we are lost.**

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Christian Worship # 402

*My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!*

*May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!*

*While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.*

*When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,*

*Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!*

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle
Christian Worship # 122 vss 1,4,5

*Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay.
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer, As a victim won the day.*

*Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit your equal be,
Symbol of the world's redemption, For your burden makes us free.*

*Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To th' eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done—
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.*

Announcements

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Waterstradt

Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

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St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross

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Sunday Services at 8:00* & 10:45 a.m.
Children's Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
Adult & Teen Sunday Bible Classes from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 10 at 1:00 & 7:00 PM
*Easter Sunday, April 11 at 7:00, 9:00 & 10:45 AM

**NOTE OUR SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING ARE ONLY OFFERED ONLINE –
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE, THE MEDIA LINK**

Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel