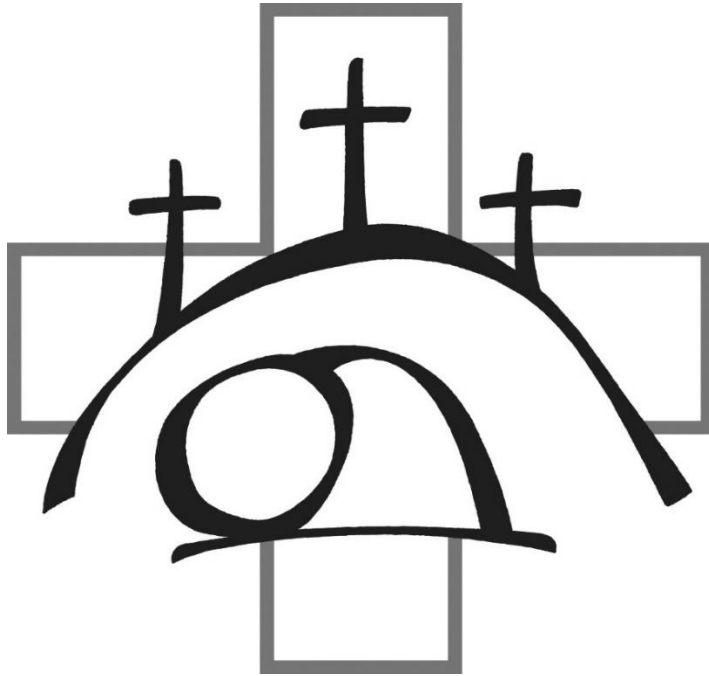


**LIVING FREE IN JESUS ...**

*I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full  
(John 10:10)*

**Worship Bulletin for March 15, 2023**



**GLORIFY HIM ...  
GROW IN HIM ...  
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

**We are St. Mark's Church & School**

A WELST<sup>†</sup>NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations

Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Elk Grove Mission – Elk Grove, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

# Lent – Midweek # 4

March 15, 2023

## A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship 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.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

## Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

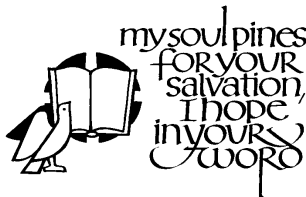
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

We do have **LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service; they can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' are in the 'red' book / 'Christian Worship Supplement' in the 'blue' 'Christian Worship Hymnal' is our 2021 Edition (not yet in the Pews)*

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

**Holy Communion** is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksch](https://facebook.com/stmarksch); Follow us on Instagram: [Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran](https://Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran); Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: [vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch](https://vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch).

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Worship Focus:** What is holding you back from living free in Jesus? If you are caught up in the thought process of not feeling saved or worthy, reread John 3:16 and the events of Holy Week; focus on the facts which reveal God's love for you, such is not based on how you feel but on how He is toward us. Maybe it is guilt which is holding you back; Jesus has made it possible for you to be set free from this too. As we ponder the opening question this Lenten journey, may the Lord continue to open your eyes and ears and heart to what He has done to set us free from ourselves (our sin and all that comes with it) and thus enabled to live the life He calls us to live – living free in Jesus.

## PRELUDE

### *Greeting & Invocation*

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

**Congregation: 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.**

## HYMN

*Musical Introduction*

### **Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain**

*Christian Worship (red) # 106*

**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; You shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; He that drinks shall thirst no more.**

**He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.**

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.

**All: 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.**

## **CHOIR**

## **Lamb of God**

*Lamb of God pure and holy, who on the cross did suffer,  
Ever patient and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer.  
All sins you carried for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:  
Have mercy on us, oh Jesus. Your peace be with us, oh Jesus.*

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.**

## **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

## **Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

*Christian Worship # 98*

**Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.**

## **THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

*Jesus Before The Sanhedrin*

M: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

**Men:** Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

**All:** “**Jesus of Nazareth,**” they replied.

**Women:** “I am he,” Jesus said. Judas the traitor was standing there with them. When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

**Men:** Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

**All:** **And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”**

**Women:** “I told you that I am he,” Jesus answered. “If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

**M:** Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them. “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas approached Jesus to kiss him and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

**Women:** Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? Friend, do what you came for.”

**M:** Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said,

**All:** “**Lord, should we strike with our swords?**”

**M:** One of Jesus’ companions, Simon Peter, reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

**Women:** “No more of this! Put your sword back into its sheath,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

**Men:** Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

**M:** At that time Jesus said to the crowd, the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour - when darkness reigns! This has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” All the disciples deserted him and fled.

**Men:** Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and took him away.

**Women:** A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

## CHOIR

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I'd gladly take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noonday heat and the burden of the day.*

*I take, oh cross, thy shadow for my abiding place.  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face.  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
My sinful self – my only shame, my glory – all the cross!*

**M:** They brought Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Then they took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the chief priests, elders, and teachers of the law had assembled. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

**Men:** Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door.

**Women:** The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in.

**All: It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.**

**M:** One of the servant girls of the high priest on duty at the door came by. When she saw Peter seated there in the firelight warming himself she looked closely at him and said,

**Women:** "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus. Are you not one of this man's disciples?"

**Men:** He replied, "Girl, I am not. I don't know him. I don't know or understand what you're talking about."

**All: Simon Peter went out into the entryway and the rooster crowed.**

**M:** A little later, when the servant girl again saw him there, she said to those standing around,

**Women:** "This fellow is one of them." Someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them."

**Men:** Again he denied it, with an oath, "I am not! I don't know the man!"

M: About an hour later, another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.” Those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.” One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the olive grove?”

**All: Then Peter began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”**

M: Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

**Women:** Now Annas had sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

**Men:** “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

M: When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. “Is that any way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.

**Men:** “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “speak up about it. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?”

M: The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Finally, two came forward and declared,

**All: “We heard him say, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.’”**

M: Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One? I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

**Women:** “I am,” said Jesus. “It is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

M: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “he has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

**All: “He is worthy of death,” they answered.**

M: Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?” The men who were guarding Jesus began to mock and to beat him and to say many other insulting things to him. *Here ends our Passion Reading.*

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: And give us your peace. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

## **Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

*Christian Worship # 385*

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!**

**Oh, the height of Jesus’ love, Higher than the heav’ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity,  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!—Found me when I sought him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart Comfort to a wounded heart:  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.  
All my wants to him are known; All my sorrows are his own.  
Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav’nly life.**

**Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, By your Spirit and your word.  
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

## **FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**Based on Psalm 73:23-27**

### **“Living Free In Jesus – Free From Loneliness”**

“Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.”



## OUR THANK OFFERING

*Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Holy and righteous God, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name’s sake.**

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus’ sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God’s continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*Silent meditation*

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior’s passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

*And we also pray ...*

**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***Musical Introduction***Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven***Christian Worship # 388*

**Redeemed, restored, forgiven Through Jesus' precious blood,  
Heirs of his home in heaven—Oh, praise our pard'ning God!**

**Praise him in tuneful measures Who gave his Son to die;  
Praise him whose sev'nfold treasures Enrich and sanctify.**

**Once on the dreary mountain We wandered far and wide,  
Far from the cleansing fountain, Far from the pierced side.**

**But Jesus sought and found us; Our many sins he bore.  
With cords of love he bound us To him forevermore.**

**Dear Master, yours the glory Of each recovered soul.  
Ah, who can tell the story Of love that made us whole?  
Not ours, not ours the merit; To you alone the praise!  
Give us a thankful spirit To serve you all our days.**

**Now keep us, holy Savior, In your true love and fear,  
And grant us by your favor The grace to persevere  
Till, in your new creation, Our earthly troubles o'er,  
Heirs of your free salvation, We praise you evermore.**

**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***Musical Introduction***Salvation unto Us Has Come***Christian Worship # 390*

**Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is the one Redeemer.**

**Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my life indeed,  
For you have paid my ransom.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Serving at Worship**  
Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander  
Accompanist: Jodi Rowe

*To connect to the auto giving option:*



*To online Connect Card:*



christ became  
obedient  
for us unto  
death  
even to death  
on a CROSS