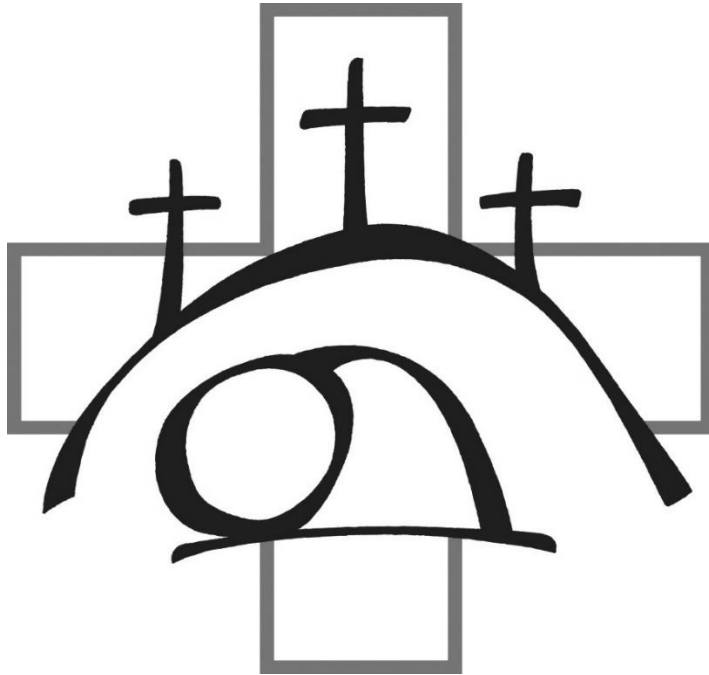


LIVING FREE IN JESUS ...

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

Worship Bulletin for March 22, 2023



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

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELST[†]NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations

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

Lent – Midweek # 5

March 22, 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:

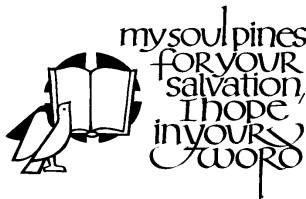
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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 1st, 3rd, & 5th 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; Follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: 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.

OPENING HYMN

Musical Introduction

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

Christian Worship (red) # 112

**There is a fountain filled with blood—Immanuel was slain—
And sinners who are washed therein Lose ev'ry guilty stain,
Lose ev'ry guilty stain.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he, Washed all my sins away,
Washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood Shall never lose its pow'r
Till all the ransomed Church of God Be saved and sin no more,
Be saved and sin no more.**

**E'er since by faith I saw the stream Your flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die.**

**When this poor lisp'ing, stamm'ring tongue Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing your pow'r to save,
I'll sing your pow'r to save.**

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.

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 Pilate

M: Very early in the morning, at daybreak, the chief priests with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin met together, and Jesus was led before them.

Men: “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.”

Women: He answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

All: They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

Women: He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

All: Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

M: The whole assembly rose. They bound Jesus and led him from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor. When Judas, who betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.

Men: “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

All: “**What is that to us?**” they replied. “**That’s your responsibility.**”

M: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

Women: “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

M: Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.” By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace. They wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

Men: So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

All: “**If he were not a criminal,**” they replied, “**we would not have handed him over to you.**”

Men: Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

All: “**But we have no right to execute anyone,**” the Jews objected.

M: This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

Women: Then the chief priests and elders began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”

Men: Pilate then went back inside the palace and summoned Jesus. Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

M: “Is that your idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

Men: “Do you think I am a Jew?” Pilate replied. “It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

M: Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Men: “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

M: Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Men: “What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out to the Jews, and announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

Women: The chief priests and elders accused Jesus of many things.

Men: Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are accusing you of?”

Women: Jesus gave no answer.

Men: So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer?”

Women: But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge --- to the great amazement of the governor.

M: The chief priests and elders insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

Women: On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

M: When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends --- before this they had been enemies. *Here ends our Passion Reading.*

M: Lord, have mercy on us. **C: And give us your peace. Amen.**

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Christian Worship # 389

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood From thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.**

**Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law’s demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly—Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee!**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Matthew 26:35,39

“Living Free In Jesus --- Free From Self-Will”

But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same. ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

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.

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: 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

O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head

Christian Worship # 118

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred head With thorns was pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy blessing on my head That I may think for thee.**

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands With nails were pierced for me;
Oh, shed thy blessing on my hands That they may work for thee.**

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet With nails were pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy blessing on my feet That they may follow thee.**

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart With spear was pierced for me;
Oh, pour thy Spirit in my heart That I may live for thee.**

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may hold firmly to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

Musical Introduction

Drawn to the Cross

Christian Worship # 387

**Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**To pledge my labor willingly, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

POSTLUDE

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Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Mr. Greg Thiesfeldt

Accompanist: Jodi Rowe