# **CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

Worship Bulletin for March 26, 2023



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

# We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELS<sup>†</sup>NorCal **Ministry** ... Other Locations Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Elk Grove Mission – Elk Grove, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 26, 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: <u>facebook.com/stmarksch</u>; Follow us on Instagram: <u>Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran</u>; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: <u>vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch</u>.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Worship Focus:** What are some things you can be certain will take place while you are living on this side of heaven? The list is long, and it includes dying as no one escapes that which has come into this world as a consequence of sin. Even though we will die, unless Jesus returns first, death does not have to be something we are afraid of happening to us; what is frightening is not having a connection with the Creator God through His Son, Jesus, when that time comes. How can we know if we have the necessary connection? That is the focus for today.

#### PRELUDE

# **Greeting & Invocation**

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; Congregation: His love endures forever.

M: This is the day the LORD has made; C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the  $\ddagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen. Let us worship Him.

HYMN Musical Introduction Christ, the Life of All the Living Christian Worship (red) # 114

Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe, Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe— Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God! Thus didst thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole; Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul; Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround thee, Treating thee with cruel scorn, And with piercing thorns they crowned thee. All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne That as thine thou mightest own me And with heav'nly glory crown me. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee. Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee That from pain I might be free; Falsely did thy foes accuse thee—Thence I gain security. Comfortless thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently, Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me. Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

M: What does God tell us about ourselves in his holy Word?

C: He says that we are sinners and deserve only his punishment.

- M: When we realize that we have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should we do?
- C: We will confess before God all our sins, those which we remember as well as those of which we are unaware. We pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.
- M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?
- C: Yes, I believe.
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ₱ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen. Thanks be to God.
- M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD (no musical introduction) ... on page 5

Glorify!



M: Let us pray. Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may

receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life;

# C: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

#### 2 Kings 4:18-37

Death stings, yet death does not have to be the last word on the topic. God has power over death.

The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. <sup>19</sup> He said to his father, "My head! My head!" His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother." <sup>20</sup> After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.<sup>21</sup> She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.<sup>22</sup> She called her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return."<sup>23</sup> "Why go to him today?" he asked. "It's not the New Moon or the Sabbath." "That's all right," she said. <sup>24</sup> She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead on; don't slow down for me unless I tell you." <sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite! <sup>26</sup> Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are vou all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?" "Everything is all right," she said. <sup>27</sup> When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me why." <sup>28</sup> "Did I ask you for a son, my lord?" she said. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't raise my hopes'?"<sup>29</sup> Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don't greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets vou, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy's face." <sup>30</sup> But the child's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her. <sup>31</sup>Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy has not awakened." <sup>32</sup> When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. <sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm.<sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eves. <sup>36</sup> Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son." <sup>37</sup> She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

M: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

**PSALM of the DAY** *Musical Introduction ... See page 7*  **PSALM 46** *Christian Worship, page 84* 





God is our ref<u>uge</u> and strength,\* an ever-present help in <u>trou</u>ble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the <u>earth</u> give way\* and the mountains fall into the heart <u>of</u> the sea,

though its waters <u>roar</u> and foam\* and the mountains quake with their <u>surg</u>ing.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit<u>v</u> of God,\* the holy place where the Most <u>High</u> dwells.

God is within her, she <u>will</u> not fall;\* God will help her at <u>break</u> of day.

"Be still, and know that <u>I</u> am God;" I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted <u>in</u> the earth."

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son\* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,\* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

# A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

The work of the Holy Spirit is spelled out. Are you seeing evidence of His work in you?

<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to

Romans 8:11-19

death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. <sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

M: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

**RESPONSIVE SENTENCES** ... Romans 11

- M: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
- C: Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?
- M: Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?
- C: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

# A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

#### John 11:17-27, 38-45

Did you hear what Jesus did? He raised a dead man to life. He is the resurrection and the life – for you too.

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." <sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for

the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Crown Him with Many Crowns** Christian Worship # 341

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne; Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love—Behold his hands and side, Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified. No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight, But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save. His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high, Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love. Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall; Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns For he is King of all.

# FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

"Your Suffering Is Not For Naught"

# A CONFESSION OF FAITH – Based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Based on Romans 8:11-19

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

Musical Introduction

HYMN OF THE DAY

- M: What are we meaning to say with these words?
- C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.
- M: He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.
- C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

All: This is most certainly true.

# **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: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son. Through him we have confidence to enter into your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.

C: Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit.

- M: Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works.
- C: Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need.
- M: Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.

# C: Strengthen our faith so that we unfailingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs.

- M: Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid.
- C: Help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives, knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

# Silent prayer.

M: Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

#### C: 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 Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace** *Christian Worship # 185* 

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace That we our Lord and Savior In faith and fervent love embrace And truly serve him ever, So that when death is near at hand We at his cross may firmly stand And there find our salvation.

Help us that we your saving Word In faithful hearts may treasure; Let e'er that bread of life afford New grace in richest measure. Make us to die to ev'ry sin; Each day create us new within That fruits of faith may flourish.

# Then when our earthly race is run, Death's bitter hour impending, May your good work in us begun Continue till life's ending, Until we gladly may commend Our souls into our Savior's hand To rest in peace eternal.

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 Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ⊕ give you peace. C: Amen.

# HYMN

Musical Introduction

**Christ, the Life of All the Living** *Christian Worship # 114* 

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For thy sorrows deep and sore, For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore, Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, For thy bleeding and thy dying, For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE**

# TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

# Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Mr. Greg Thiesfeldt Focus on the Scriptures: Pastor Jonathan Kolander Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

Flowers: The flowers have been placed at the altar by the Lazaga's in celebration of Greg's 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday!

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- Order of Service: "The common Service" from *Christian Worship*, Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Music from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, revised by James Engel.
- Scripture Quotations: From the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984; 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

#### **Sunday Bible Studies**

Adults, 9:30 (also online) ... A further look at "The Augsburg Confession" Children, in person Sunday School ... meet at 9:15 in the Chapel Teens, in person at 9:30 in the Gathering Space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level ... "Parables"

# For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

1<sup>st</sup>: What do you think makes this account even more tragic? (most likely 8 years old, heat stroke, she traveled some 20 miles) Life was restored in this case; such is not always the case, so what is the lesson here for us? Read Psalm 90.

 $2^{nd}$ : If you are in a wrestling match, what is the goal and why is that the case? The wrestling match for our mind and soul is not just a sport, how so? What do we have to help us with this wrestling match? Read Romans 7:7-8:10.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Jesus could have arrived earlier, so why didn't He? What concept do people struggle with which Jesus addresses very clearly in this account? What is the comfort you come away with from this section? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11.

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

# Weekly Calendar

Today		***LWMS Mission Box Offering***
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	5:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service – 6 of 6
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Discussion – Luther Room
Friday	5:00 p.m.	Game Night at St. Mark's – in the MPC
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Easter Community Connection Event
Next Sunday		PALM Sunday
		***LWMS Mission Box Offering***
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Jesus Cares – in the Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	Catechism

Birthdays		Anniversaries
Michael Lane	<i>Mar 26</i>	
Glenn Walker	Mar 28	
John Healy	Mar 29	
Norma Carson	Mar 30	
Greg Meyer		

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:





# Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Website: www.StMarksLutheran.com St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: stmarks7869

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (Live streamed) ... Teens in the Teen Room Monday Evening Service at 6:30 PM in the Adm Building Chapel Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:20 a.m.

Jonathan Kolander	Pastor
Stacie Malone & Linda Halfhill	Office Admin
Erin Donoho	Ministry Assistant
Shawn Butler & Suzanne Schlais	Facility Managers
Mike Rausch & Daniel Joseph	Teen Study Leaders
Darren Vogt	Principal, Grades 7-8
Tyler Wahl	Grades 5-6
Jodi Rowe	Grades 3-4
Rosemarie Boushek	Grades 1-2
Hannah Ripley & Rosa Lewis	Jr.K/Kindergarten
Greg Thiesfeldt Associa	te Teacher, Grades 5-8
Ruth Vogt	Art
Dena Oswald	Ext. School Day Care

# Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel



