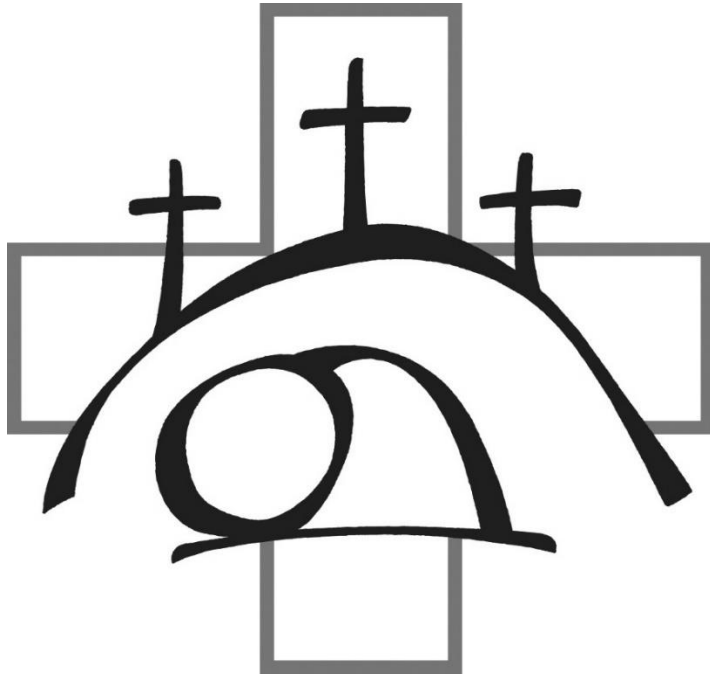


THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ...

*For God so loved 'you' that He gave His One & Only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

Worship Bulletin for February 28, 2024



**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, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

Lent – Midweek # 3

February 28, 2024

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:

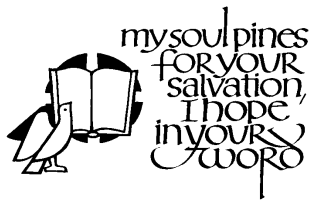
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Blue (2021) /
'Christian Worship Supplement' (blue soft cover)*

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: When you think of a love story, does your mind right away go to the greatest love story of all time ... that being the one God wrote and acted on? The church Season of Lent provides the perfect setting to see and hear God's love for *you*, even if you have heard it countless times. The focus during Lent is not on what we have to do but on what God already has done for us, and how He keeps it in front of us all our days on this side of heaven. In response, the Holy Spirit prompts us and directs us on how to show our love for God. We can rightly say, then, that what is before us in no ordinary love story.

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Arr. By Michael Burkhardt

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: O Lord, open my lips.

Congregation: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 4

Peace Came to Earth

Christian Worship Blue # 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!
side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

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: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening worship. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise,

C: through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Christian Worship Blue # 420

**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 suff'ring, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

**Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your passion,
but its cause to me make known and its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction;
this indeed the cause has been of your crucifixion.**

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus' Agony Of Soul In Gethsemane

M: After Jesus had said this, he was deeply troubled and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me --- one who is eating with me. The hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table." His disciples were very sad. They stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant, and began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. One after the other they began to say to him,

All: "Surely not I, Lord?"

Men: Jesus replied, "It is one of the Twelve. The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

M: The disciple whom Jesus loved was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said,

Women: "Ask him which one he means."

M: Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him,

Women: "Lord, who is it?"

Men: Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish."

M: Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said,

Women: "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

M: Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

Men: "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

M: Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said,

Men: "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, then God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."

M: While they were eating, Jesus took bread on the night he was betrayed, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

All: “Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

M: In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,

All: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: They all drank from it. “My little children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

Men: Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Women: Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

Men: Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Women: Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

Men: But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

Women: Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

HYMN

Musical Introduction

How Great Thou Art

Christian Worship Red # 256

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
“How great thou art! How great thou art!”
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
“How great thou art! How great thou art!”*

M: Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?”

All: “Nothing,” they answered.

M: He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

All: The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”

M: “That is enough,” he replied. When Jesus had finished praying, and they had sung a hymn, he went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. Then Jesus told them,

Women: “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Men: Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”

Women: “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today --- yes, tonight --- before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

Men: But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”

M: And all the others said the same. Then Jesus went with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, a place called Gethsemane. Jesus and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. On reaching the place, Jesus said to his disciples,

Women: “Sit here while I go over there and pray. Pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

M: He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, along with him and began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

Women: “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

M: He withdrew about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and fell on the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

All: “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will. Not my will, but yours be done.”

M: When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” He went away a second time and prayed,

All: “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

M: When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Returning to the disciples the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!” *Here ends our Passion Reading.*

M: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: And give us your peace. Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

What Grace Is This

Christian Worship Blue # 395



1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
2 What grace is this— that ver - y God
3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
4 What grace is this! Rude ag - o - nies!



has set his face to suf - fer - ing. My God e -
would stoop to lift a cross of wood and walk a
he yields to Pon - tius Pi - late's law and lets the
With com - mon thieves he hangs and bleeds. The sin - less



ter - nal dies to bring e - ter - nal life to me.
road of rock and blood, a sin - ner's road, for me.
Ro - man ham - mers draw a rush of blood for me.
Son bears each mis - deed; he pays for all, for me.

5 **What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
 and gently laid in manger-trough,
 he's taken, dead, from wretched cross
 and wrapped again for me.**

6 **What grace is this? How can it be?
 He wears this raw humility
 to lift me to eternity.
 Such grace—sweet grace—for me.**

“The Greatest Love Story --- Great Is The Father’s Love”

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 appreciate more and more the love that moved him to suffer and die 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

The Lamb

Christian Worship Blue # 525



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.
His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.



Refrain
Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

M: But he was pierced for our transgressions,

C: he was crushed for our iniquities;

M: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

C: and by his wounds we are healed.

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.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

There Is a Redeemer
Christian Worship Blue # 519



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in_ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

POSTLUDE

There is a Balm in Giliad
Arr. By Lloyd Larson

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Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

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

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:

