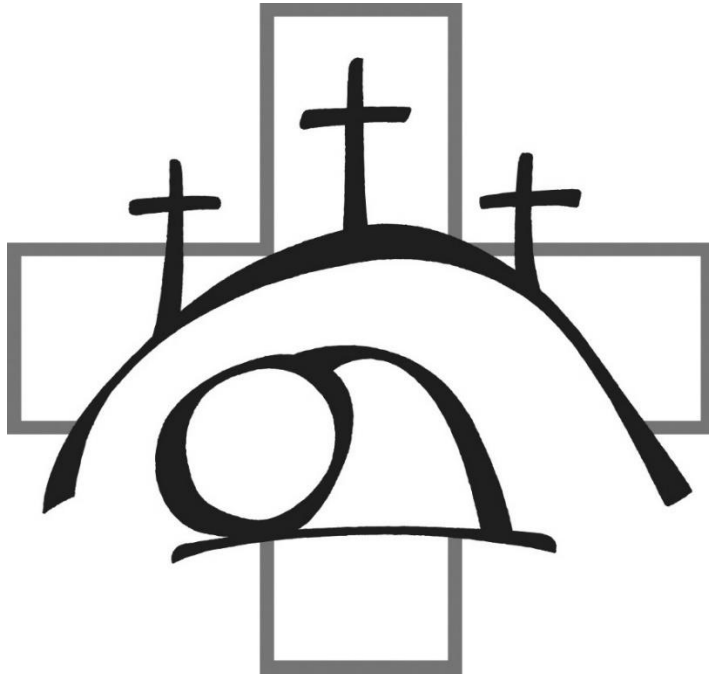


THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ...

*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 March 13, 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 # 5

March 13, 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:

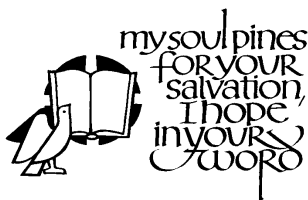
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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

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 ... See page 11 for the Song

Ten Thousand Reasons

Christian Worship Blue # 607

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 suffering, pain, and death that I may not perish.**

**If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
let your cross my fear disarm, peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won by your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!**

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?”

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: “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 ... Song continues on page 7

Not unto Us

Christian Worship Blue # 582

**Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
not unto us but to your name be praise;
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv’n
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

**Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav’ling days are over and done,
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on 1 John 4:9-10

“The Greatest Love Story --- Love Was Behind The Sacrifice”

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

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

Jesus, My Great High Priest

Musical Introduction

Christian Worship Blue # 538

1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and
 2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my
 3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on
 4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -

died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -
 cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's
 high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his
 known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and

fice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
 bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
 thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
 mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -

tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.
 set— my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
 say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
 plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Musical Introduction

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Christian Worship Blue # 560

Your works, not mine, O Christ, speak gladness to this heart;

they tell me all is done, they bid my fear depart.

(Refrain) To whom but you, who can alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

(women)

Your blood, not mine, O Christ, can heal my sinful soul;

your wounds, not mine, contain the balm that makes me whole. *(Refrain by all)*

Your cross, not mine, O Christ, has borne the dreadful load

of sins that none could bear but the incarnate God. *(Refrain)*

(men)

Your death, not mine, O Christ, has paid the ransom due;

ten thousand deaths like mine would have been all too few. *(Refrain by all)*

Your righteousness, O Christ, alone can cover me;

no other righteousness can set a sinner free. *(Refrain)*

POSTLUDE

Copyrighted material is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-711071.

607: Text and tune: © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / Worship Together Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com.

Used by permission: OneLicense.net no. A-711071

Scripture Quotations: From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Jeri Reed

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



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

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 4

Ten Thousand Reasons

Christian Worship Blue # 607



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



- 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
- 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
- 3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



∴ it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; ∴ still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good-ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



Refrain

let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
ten thou-sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
ten thou-sand years and then for - ev - er - more.