

# CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for March 23, 2025



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

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

**A WELS†NorCal Ministry ... Other Area Locations**  
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

*WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries*

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

## 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:

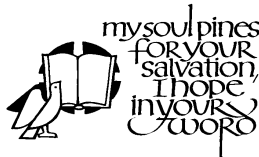
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

**LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Dark 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 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

## PRELUDE

## Rock of Ages

*By Thomas Hastings & Richard W. Gieseke*

### *Greeting & Invocation*

Minister: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

*(Ps 100)*

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

M: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

**C: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

M: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

**C: give thanks to him and praise his name.**

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

**C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

M: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

## HYMN

## Amazing Grace

*Musical Introduction*

*Christian Worship # 379*

**Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,**

**We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. Jesus has said, as recorded in Matthew 22:

**C: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

M: This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

**C: Love your neighbor as yourself."**

M: 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. Thanks be to God.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

*(musical introduction, see page 5)*



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Leviticus 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>“If someone brings a lamb as their sin offering, they are to bring a female without defect. <sup>33</sup>They are to lay their hand on its head and slaughter it for a sin offering at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. <sup>34</sup>Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. <sup>35</sup>They shall remove all the fat, just as the fat is removed from the lamb of the fellowship offering, and the priest shall burn it on the altar on top of the food offerings presented to the LORD. In this way

the priest will make atonement for them for the sin they have committed, and they will be forgiven.

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

**A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Hebrews 5:1-4**

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup> This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. <sup>4</sup> And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

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

*Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.*

**A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 13:1-9**

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

<sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Musical Introduction*

**Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness**

*Christian Worship Red # 376*

**Jesus, your blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day—Who can a word against me say?  
Fully through you absolved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe your precious blood, Which at the very throne of God  
Forever will for sinners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
You have for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,  
E'en then this shall be all my plea: Jesus has lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be worshiped endlessly! Your boundless mercy has for me,  
For me and all your hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.**

**FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**Based on Leviticus 4:32-35**

**“Cherish the blood of Jesus”**



**A CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **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: Lord, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us each day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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*

**Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

*Christian Worship Red # 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!**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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*

**Not Unto Us**

*Christian Worship Red # 392*

**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 e'er 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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**

**Not Unto Us**

*By Carl Ziebell & David Cherwien*



# TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

## Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Brad Wright

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

Flowers: The flowers beautifying the altar have been provided by Rosemarie Boushek.  
Blessings!

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

*To connect to our website and the auto giving option:*



## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

|             |              |  |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| Today       |              | LWMS Mission Offering All Month!         |
|             | 8:00 & 10:45 | Worship Service                          |
|             | 9:30 a.m.    | Bible Study                              |
| Monday      | 6:30 p.m.    | Worship Service (Office Building Chapel) |
| Tuesday     | 1:00 p.m.    | GriefShare #12                           |
| Wednesday   | 8:20 p.m.    | School Chapel Service                    |
|             | 5:30 p.m.    | Midweek Lenten Supper                    |
|             | 6:30 p.m.    | Midweek Lenten Service                   |
|             | 7:30 p.m.    | Adult Choir                              |
| Thursday    | 9:30 a.m.    | JOL Women's Bible Study                  |
| Next Sunday | 8:00 & 10:45 | Worship Service with Holy Communion      |
|             | 9:30 a.m.    | Bible Study                              |

| <i>Birthdays</i>  |               | <i>Anniversaries</i>     |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Greg Lazaga       | <i>Mar 24</i> | Gary & Gail Verthein     |
| Rosemarie Boushek | <i>Mar 25</i> | Steve & Ellie Ennis      |
|                   |               | Franklin & Peachy Galvez |
| Michael Lane      | <i>Mar 26</i> |                          |
|                   | <i>Mar 27</i> |                          |
| Glenn Walker      | <i>Mar 28</i> |                          |
| John Healey       | <i>Mar 29</i> |                          |



Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Vacancy Pastor: Brad Wright

Principal: Darren Vogt