

March 9, 2025
1st Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “ *A Lenten Chorale* ” by G. Neumark, arr. S. Saxton

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

****Stand**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✚ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

**** OPENING HYMN**

No. 774

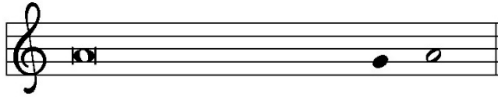
“ What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine ”

**** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**** KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



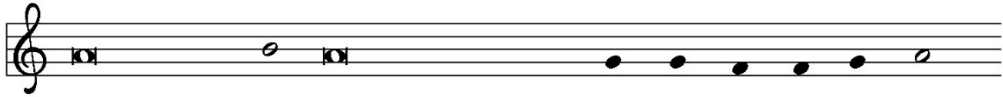
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.” R**

⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰ **no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone. R**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**** GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 319

“ O Lord, throughout These Forty Days ”

**** APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home visitation teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (*especially*). Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“ Speak to Me In Ashes ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 188

“ Create in Me a Clean Heart ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

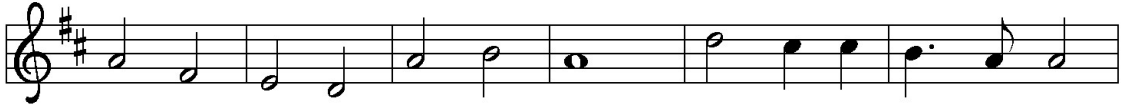
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**** PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



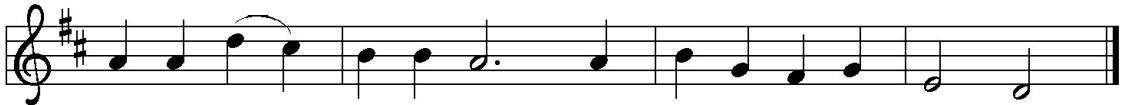
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**** LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

**** COMMUNION SONG**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord’s table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION HYMN

No. 325

“ I Want Jesus to Walk with Me ”

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

**** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

**** CLOSING HYMN**

No. 326

“ Bless Now, O God, the Journey ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.... We Will!

POSTLUDE

“ Postlude on ‘St. Drostane’ ” by Lani Smith



Prayer Requests

Mourning: Grove Family

Illness: Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel, John Burk, Emelee DeWitt, Philip, Jim Bosley, Danny Bosley, Mikel Lewis, Gary Wotherspoon, Debbie, Michelle Michaels, Joe Cook, Scott Rohrbaugh, Jason McClung, Paul Lewis, Bill Roszell, Ann Friend, Diane, Ida Durben, Helen Ferrell, Lisa Joy Stowers, Calvin Samuels, Cork Grove, Bob Sr, Tary Thompson, Lauren Orcutt, Valerie Minor

Special Needs: Gary, Chase, Linda, Karen, Bill, Mary, Paul, The Null Family, Kim

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 22

Listening with Love Workshop –
Offered by WV-WMD Synod 9a.m.- 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26

Lenten Meal & Devotional 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.

Friday, April 18

Holy Friday 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

Thursday, May 8

Sight and Sound Bus Trip



Special Offering – Tree 4 Hope

This month, our special offering supports Tree 4 Hope, a nonprofit bringing education, nutrition, and sustainable resources to vulnerable communities in Guatemala. Their mission includes empowering girls through Hope Academy, a school providing education and opportunity for a brighter future. Your generosity helps change lives! Maybe a fun mission trip opportunity in the future?

Sight & Sound St. Mark's Bus Trip

Join us for an unforgettable bus trip on May 8th, 2025, to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre for the spectacular production of Noah! Witness the powerful story of Noah's faith and trust as he embarks on one of the world's most famous voyages. This landmark production, featuring live animals and captivating sets that fill the stage and aisles, returns for one season only to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sight & Sound Theatre. In addition to the show, we'll enjoy a scenic bus ride through the beautiful countryside and lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The cost of tickets is \$232 per person (includes transportation, premier 1st-floor seating, and lunch). You'll need to secure your spot by signing up soon. Payment for the trip is now due. Ticket forms are located in the narthex. Please **HOLD** your spot by returning the purple form in the narthex or by talking to Joyce Anderson, Ellda, or Pastor Carrie for more information.



Special Offering – Supporting Firefighters in Need

Last month, our special offering supported the **California Fire Foundation – Firefighters Benevolent Fund** and we collected \$778.00.

Listening with Love

Foundations of Pastoral Care

Rev. Marti Steiner Unger
Rev. Dr. John R. Unger II



Listening with Love: Foundations of Pastoral Care

This Christian ecumenical class is facilitated by The Rev. Marti Steiner Unger, RCP, and Rev. Dr. John R. Unger II, RCP, on March 22 from 9am - 4pm, here at St. Mark.

The class is free, but each participant will need to purchase and bring the textbook, “Listening with Love: Foundations of Pastoral Care,” prior to class from Amazon for \$10—<https://a.co/d/dgvCT99>. You will receive a certificate upon completion of the class. "Listening with Love" is designed to equip faith leaders (both lay and clergy) with practical skills and perspectives to provide Christ centered, compassionate, effective pastoral care with those in congregations and communities who are struggling: from trauma, health issues, mental illness, loss, financial issues, addiction, *etc.*

Jesus himself modeled the utmost compassion for the brokenhearted, the outcast, and the afflicted. He listened without judgment, offered hope and healing, and always pointed people to God’s unfailing love. As his disciples, we too must learn to listen with love—with genuine empathy, patience, and grace. Imagine the transformation in your church and community as you and your ministry leaders gain competence and confidence in providing pastoral care. Envision the unique opportunity to embody the compassionate and restorative love of Christ, The Good Shepherd, by providing hope and support for healing and transformation of individuals and communities. Please register on the WV-WMD Synod website or RSVP’ing to Pastor Carrie.

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar March 9, 2025 – March 16, 2025

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Bell Quartet at 5:30 p.m.
- Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Adult Forum at 8:30 a.m.
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Riley Feathers
Lector:	Millard Minor
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recording:	Kathy Johnson
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Capt. Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at carriehoff@outlook.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



March 9, 2025, First Sunday in Lent

Luke 4:1-13

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Sustaining God, with the words of your holy scriptures, Jesus resisted all the temptations of the devil. Write your word on our hearts that we might also turn away from evil, in Jesus name. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. (Luke 4:12-13)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Three times, the devil tempted Jesus to follow an easier path to satisfaction, power, and security. Jesus knew the harder path was the right one, and sent the devil packing.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **What tempts you the most? How do you resist temptation? How do you forgive yourself when temptation gets the best of you?**
- **For the littles: If Jesus went into a wrestling ring with the Devil, who do you think would win? Why? Would it be a quick match or a long one?**



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May Jesus defeat your demons. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Jesus started his ministry with isolation, fasting, and prayer. If your health allows, try fasting as a spiritual practice. What do you learn about yourself when you are hungry?



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Sunday, Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Monday, Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6

Tuesday, Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21

Wednesday, Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6

Thursday, Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12

Friday, Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20

Saturday, Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39