

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor*

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

March 30, 2025
4th Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**** 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. 807

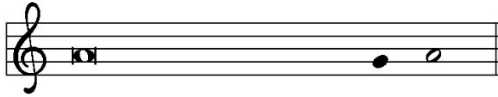
"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**** 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.



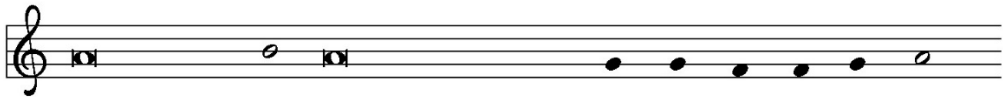
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

PSALM: Psalm 32

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile! R**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. R**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

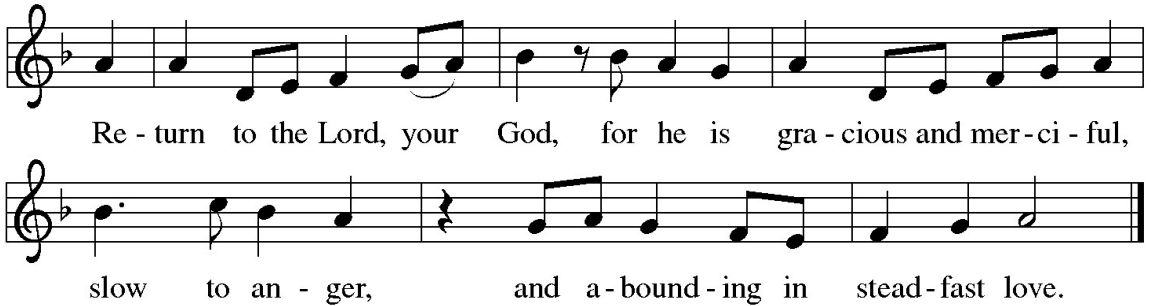
¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal

through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**** 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 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

** HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 606

“ Our Father, We Have Wandered ”

** 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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (*especially*). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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

“ Grace ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 188

“ Create in Me a Clean Heart ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**** 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.**

**** 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. 763

“ My Life Flows On in Endless Song ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.... We Will!

POSTLUDE



Prayer Requests

Mourning: Fedde family

Illness: Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel, John Burk, Emelee DeWitt, Philip, Jim Bosley, Danny Bosley, Gary Wotherspoon, Debbie, Michelle Michaels, Joe Cook, Scott Rohrbaugh, Jason McClung, Bill Roszell, Diane, Ida Durben, Helen Ferrell, Lisa Joy Stowers, Cork Grove, Bob Sr, Gary Thompson, Lauren Orcutt, Valerie Minor, Paul LeDuc, Mike Null, Elaine, Kacey, Dave Hoff, Bradley, Sue, Blake Hogan, Griffith, Erin, John Scriven, Linda, Jimmy

Special Needs: Gary, Chase, Linda, Karen, Bill, Mary, The Null Family, Kim, Erin, Mandie, Bill, Linda, Dan Elliott, Brenda Harvey, Tristyn, Randi, Nancy, Steph & Sarah, Stephanie Lowdermilk, Jason Sisler, Tim Sines, Molly Rose, Ben Brace

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, April 27

Easter Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

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?

Directory Update

Please fill out the membership form so we can have a complete and accurate directory. We are asking for an updated picture of you too. If you don't have access or don't remember how to get into the online directory, please reach out to Ellda.

Spring Flowers for Easter

It is time to order Spring flowers for Easter morning at St. Mark's. We are doing several options again as we have done more recently. The flowers that will be available for dedication would be lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and a bulb garden that includes daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths together. The price range will be between \$12 and \$40 for these options. Orders are now being taken, delivered Holy Week, used in the Sanctuary Easter morning, and available to go home anytime after worship that day.

6" daffodils	\$12
6" hyacinths	\$12
8" tulips	\$12
6" Easter lilies	\$15
6" Easter lilies (double)	\$20
Bulb Garden	\$40

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 30, 2025 – April 6, 2025

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- 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.
- Worship & Music Team after service

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Taylor Kitzmiller-Bosley
Lector:	Betsy Dempsey
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recording:	Kathy Johnson
Safe Keeper:	Liz Lewis
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift

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



March 30, 2025, Fourth Sunday in Lent Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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



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

Holy God, you travel down any path and go to any lengths to find us, and you rejoice when we are back in your loving arms. Keep us ever mindful of your endless mercy and grace, that we might release our shame when we once again wander from your loving care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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

³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" (Luke 15:31-32)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Through the parable of the lost son, Jesus showed how repentance is about returning what was lost and repairing damaged relationships.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **Who do you identify with the most in this parable? Why? What word does Jesus have for you?**
- **For the littles: Jesus often taught people using stories. What is your favorite story? What does it teach you about your life or about how the world works?**



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God love you abundantly. Amen.



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

Identify a local organization that works with people commonly perceived as "sinners." (A local prison, juvenile detention facility, or homeless shelter are a few ideas.) Volunteer your time working with those folks. How does the experience shape you?



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

Sunday, Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Monday, Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8

Tuesday, Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10

Wednesday, Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17

Thursday, Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24

Friday, Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1

Saturday, Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57