

So, why do we do that?

A Lenten focus on the what and why of our worship



the welcome place.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

436 N. Oak Ave.

Clifton Heights, PA 19018



We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! We use PowerPoint, the worship bulletin, and two hymnals; the ELW (red) and W&P (purple). Page numbers with a “p” (e.g. ELW p. 116) are in the front of the book, at the bottom of the page. Page numbers alone (e.g. ELW 340) indicate a hymn number and are found in the second half of the book, at the top of the page. If you have any questions as you follow along in worship, please ask your neighbor or an usher!

You’ll notice the bulletin looks a little different today. Throughout the season of Lent, we’re spending some intentional time with our liturgy to understand some of the “what” and the “why” behind the words and actions we say and do together. The liturgy is on the left-hand side, the explanations on the right. You are encouraged to take your bulletin home and read through the annotations. Pr. Kevin is always happy to answer any questions that might arise.

5 Lent
Fifth Sunday in Lent
ELW Holy Communion
Setting Ten
Sunday, April 6, 2025

The general pattern of worship follows what we call a four part *ordo*. *Ordo* is a Latin word that could be translated as “order” or “rank.” The four parts of the *ordo* are 1. Gathering, 2. Word, 3. Meal, and 4. Sending.¹

“In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this service—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.”²

As Lutherans, we are not beholden to the liturgy or the *ordo*. Rather, we see the liturgy as an ongoing expression of Christian unity. These patterns and forms have been in practice over a thousand years³ – when we participate in

¹ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pew edition (ELW), page 92-93.*

² ELW p. 91

³ *Prayers of the Eucharist: Early and Reformed*, R. C. D. Jasper and G. J. Cuming, 3rd. Ed. 1987. Page 3-6

these words, actions, and prayers, we join together with the great company of saints in worship that extends beyond place and time.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

GATHERING SONG *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)

GREETING (ELW p. 203)

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 (ELW p. 203)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert.

Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down; they cannot rise;

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things

or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches,

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind—
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* (ELW 802)

CREED (ELW p. 206)

**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.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (*especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING *Create in Me a Clean Heart (anonymous)* (W&P 34)

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 206)

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 206)

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 (ELW p. 207)

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 (ELW p. 207)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 207)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 208)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

SONG DURING COMMUNION *In the Singing* (ELW 466)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 208)

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The dismissal is, in the modern church, called a "sending," because we believe that God is sending us out into the world each week to share the good news of the gospel with our neighbors through word and action. You may also notice that

the candles are extinguished only after the acolyte lights the lucifer once again. The acolyte carries the light of Christ out into the world ahead of us to remind us that God, too, goes out into the world with a light that cannot be overcome by the sin and pain of the world around us.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

We are reminded that the grace and peace of God is always with us. The abundance of God continues alongside us as we go from this place.

SENDING SONG *God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)

Our final chance to sing together, the sending song is usually theologically oriented to send us out into the world and continue sharing the Good News.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 209)

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

This brief sentence is intended to highlight various aspects of the assembly's witness together and our continuing mission into the world. We are sent from this place, for the sake of the Gospel.

POSTLUDE

The worship service is not over until the conclusion of the postlude. It presents a final chance for reflection and contemplation. It is not an appropriate time for conversation or cleaning up. Conversations ought not to happen in the sanctuary during the postlude but rather can be held in the Narthex.

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DEDICATION

The Eternal Flame Candle was given in memory of Pat Mahoney by Michele Giangiulio.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER / PRESIDERThe Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey
MUSICIANFaith Woodward
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree
LECTORJustin Bainum

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey **SCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Melisa McDaid
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Faith Woodward **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Alice Kaplan

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Today Adult Sunday School 9 AM
Today Worship Service 10 AM
Today Fill Easter Eggs After Worship
Wednesday Dinner Church in Lent..... 6:30 PM
Saturday Community Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM -12 Noon
Saturday Thrift Shop Open 10 AM -2 PM
Sunday Adult Sunday School 9 AM
Sunday Palm Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

Announcements

Thank you to everyone who helped with **SPRING BINGO NIGHT**. We couldn't have done it without you!

Volunteers are needed to stay for a short time after worship today to **FILL EASTER EGGS** for next Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt.

Join us this Wednesday for **DINNER CHURCH IN LENT** at 6:30 pm for a midweek meal and informal time of worship & fellowship. This will be our last midweek gathering.

Just one more week to order Easter flowers! Pick up an **EASTER FLOWER** order form in the narthex. Please return order forms & payment by next Sunday, April 13.

Our school needs **SILK FLOWERS** to create bonnets for their Mother's Day tea party. If you have any silk flowers that you no longer need, even just one or two, it would be a lovely addition to the hats made by the children.

SAVE THOSE NEWSPAPERS! Do you still get a newspaper? If so, please save them for St. Mark's Christian School. They're getting harder to find! The school is asking for year-round donations of newspapers to use for arts and painting.

Sign up in the Narthex for a **WOMEN'S TEA** at the Painted Teacup on April 26th. Contact Kathy Cosentino or Cathy Bohne for more information.

HOLY WEEK

AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

13
APR **PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**
10 AM

17
APR **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
SERVICE - 7PM

18
APR **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**
7 PM

20
APR **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**
10 AM

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