



the welcome place.

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Worship Bulletin  
Sunday, March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent

## GATHERING

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

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ACS p. 29)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin,  
and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone,  
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.  
Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away,  
but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.**

**Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,  
so deep is God's compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

## GATHERING SONG *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)

## 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**

**Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.**

**Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.**

**Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

**1 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.  
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

**2 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours the hosannas, the dying, rebirth.  
Ours the rejoicing for nature reclaimed;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

**3 Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours the anointing, the radiant worth.  
Ours the rejoicing for spirits aflame;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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: Genesis 12:1-4a**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)**

**Nothing in all creation**

**can separate us from the love of God.**

**Nothing in all creation  
can separate us from the love of God.**

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)**

**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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING *For God So Loved* (W&P 39)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.**

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE (ACS p. 36)**

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 (ACS p. 36)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow'r and God of might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

### **COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION SONG (ACS p. 40)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

#### **SONG DURING COMMUNION *Only by Grace* (W&P 112)**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ACS p. 41)**

Let us pray.  
**Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished  
with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your  
word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Behold the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**DEDICATION**

*The Eternal Flame Candle was given to the Glory of God by Bonnie Tillman.*

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**PREACHER / PRESIDER** ..... The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey  
**MUSICIAN** ..... Faith Woodward  
**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT** ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree  
**LECTOR** ..... Justin 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 ..... Worship Service ..... 10 AM  
Thursday ..... Thursdays in Lent: At the Table with God ..... 7 PM  
Sunday ..... Worship Service ..... 10 AM

**Announcements**

Join us at 7 pm on Thursdays in Lent for **AT THE TABLE WITH GOD** as we explore themes of food and fellowship in the Bible. We'll begin with a potluck dinner - sign up in the Narthex to let us know what you're bringing.

Let's beautify the altar for the glorious celebration of Easter! Pick up an **EASTER FLOWER** order form in the narthex. Please return order forms & payment by Palm Sunday, March 29.

The annual community Easter Egg Hunt will be here **Saturday, March 28**, and donations of **EASTER CANDY** to fill the eggs would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex.

*Daylight Saving Time starts next Sunday. Don't forget to get to bed early and set your clocks an hour ahead!*

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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