



the welcome place.

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Worship Bulletin  
Sunday, March 8, 2026  
Third 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 *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* (ELW 777)

## 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.

**Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.**

**Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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: Exodus 17:1-7**

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

<sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them,

“Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”<sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”<sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”<sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup> **“Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into

our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 4:5-42**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we

know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (ELW 611)**

## **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.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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 *As the Deer* (W&P 9)**

## **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 (PP YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH)**

#### **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 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Behold the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**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** ..... Bill Caughlan

**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  
Today ..... Social Events Team Meeting.....After Worship  
Thursday ..... Thursdays in Lent: At the Table with God.....6 PM  
Saturday ..... Thrift Shop Open ..... 10 - 2 PM  
Sunday ..... Worship Service ..... 10 AM

**Announcements**

Are you a social butterfly? Would you like more opportunities to gather with the people of St. Mark & the community? Then stay after worship today to help plan **SOCIAL EVENTS** for St. Mark. We'd love your ideas and assistance!

Join us at 6 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.

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

436 N. Oak Ave, Clifton Heights, PA 190018

*Website: [www.stmarkcliftonheights.org](http://www.stmarkcliftonheights.org)*

*Email: [office@stmarkcliftonheights.org](mailto:office@stmarkcliftonheights.org)*

*Phone: 610-626-5295*