



*God's love, Our service.*

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Sunday, March 30, 2025

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

#### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The March Noisy Offering collection will go to the Olathe Animal Shelter, chosen by our 3 year old—4th grade class.



## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 666

### What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- 2 When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down,  
when I was sinking down  
beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

- 3 To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb,  
who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme,  
I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free,  
I'll sing God's love for me,  
and through eternity  
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

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### Greeting page 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 Pg. 203

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup> The 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.

<sup>10</sup> While 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. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The 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.

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 32**

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

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Then 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.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup> Do 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.”

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

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup> From 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. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** page 205

*Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 15th Chapter.*

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes, were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> 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! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.’ <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.



<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> 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.'”

**CHILDREN’S SERMON** Pastor Kris Dietzen

**SERMON** Pastor Kris Dietzen

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 608

**Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watch-  
ing,  
watching for you and for me.

*Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is plead-  
ing,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his  
mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has prom-  
ised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and  
pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

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**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.**

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.**

## **PEACE**

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

**And also with you**

Let us share God's peace with one another.

## **OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** pg. 182

## **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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .....

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** pg. 207

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG** pg. 208



## COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 779

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand  
years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

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## ELW 460

### Now the Silence

Now the silence  
Now the peace  
Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling  
Now the plea  
Now the Father's arms in welcome

Now the hearing  
Now the pow'r  
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body  
Now the blood  
Now the joyful celebration

Now the wedding  
Now the songs  
Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation  
Now the Son's epiphany  
Now the Father's blessing  
Now  
Now  
Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## BLESSING

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 763

### My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

#### *Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3 What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**



## PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

### **St. Mark's members:**

Donna Nichols,  
Pete Cagle,  
Linda Cagle,  
Janet Nichols,  
Chuck Vandenberg,  
Susan & Bill Roberts,  
George McElroy,  
Janet Schmidt,

### **Family & friends:**

Susan Galyen, friend of Joyce Johnson,  
Art Remmereid, uncle of Joyce Johnson,  
Kathryn Young, cousin of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Deanna & Steve, cousins of Tom Bryer,  
Cori & family, extended family of Amy Hackler,  
Liz Sutlick, friend of Amy Hackler,  
Julia Wise, sister-in-law of Amy Hackler,  
Family of Marj Weeg, sister-in-law of Mary & Jim Weeg,  
Nancy Harris, daughter-in-law of Nancy & Ron Brown,  
Father in law of Pam Thomas,  
Karis , granddaughter of Jim & Mary Weeg,  
Marilou Osborne, cousin of Joni Benz,  
Jim Severson, friend of Joe VanKempen,  
Carol, stepmom of Tom Bryer,  
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,  
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,  
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,  
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,  
Peggy, cousin of Jane Scherrer,  
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Fran Besser, friend of Joni & Steve Benz,  
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,  
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,  
Tammy Strampe, Daughter-in-law of Barbara Strampe,  
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,  
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,  
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,

Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,  
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,  
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,  
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle  
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,  
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,  
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,  
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,  
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,  
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,  
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,  
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,  
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,  
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,  
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,  
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,  
All People affected by natural disasters  
**Those in the Military:**  
A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,