

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School
9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir
11:00 am - First Sunday of Each Month**

**Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor
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Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

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Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064
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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

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INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

We sincerely welcome and thank Rev. Eric Anderson who will be officiating at this morning's worship service while Pastor Marleen is away.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

**Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556
Saturday, March 21, 2026**

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Jesus Still Lead On

Arr. P. Manz

GATHERING: Psalm 51:10

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

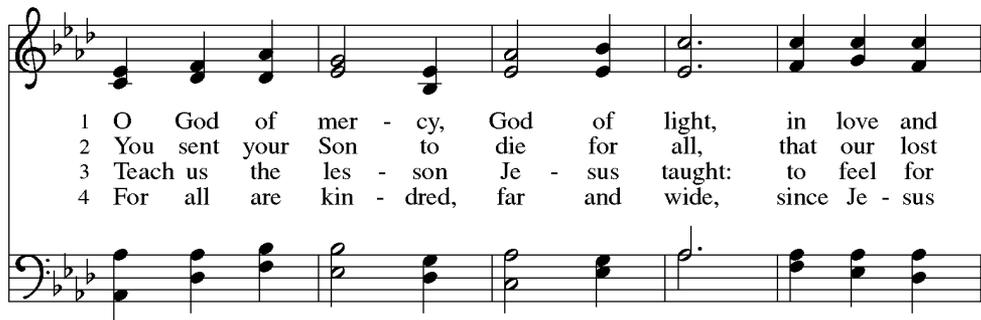
C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

***GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C 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 - va - tion, 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.

(Continued next page)



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you,
C and also with you.

P Let us pray.
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the
darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.
C Amen.

ANTHEM

When Jesus Wept

W. Billings

FIRST LESSON: 1st Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

R A Reading from 1st Samuel.

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have

rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm

(Please read the Psalm in unison.)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³ He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name’s sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:18-24

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

R A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

***GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it

(Continued next page)

is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***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.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A Hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Excerpt from "I am Thirsty"
from *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

F.J. Haydn

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A 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.
- C **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

- P 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:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P 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.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

*P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready!

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

Congregation may be seated. Please follow the directions of the ushers for the distribution of Communion.

All baptized, communing Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament.

We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine.

Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

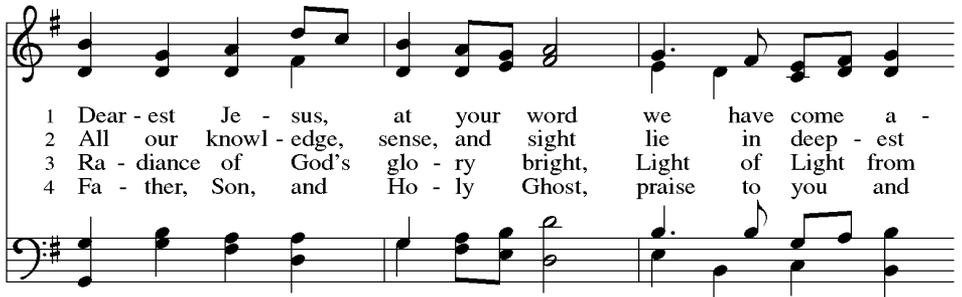
A The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

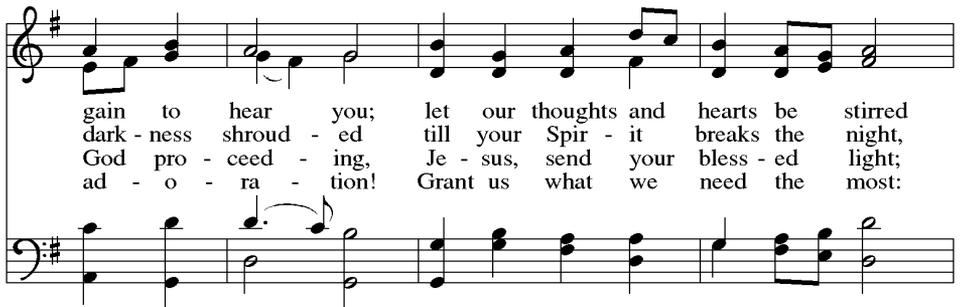
Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

HYMN OF THE DAY

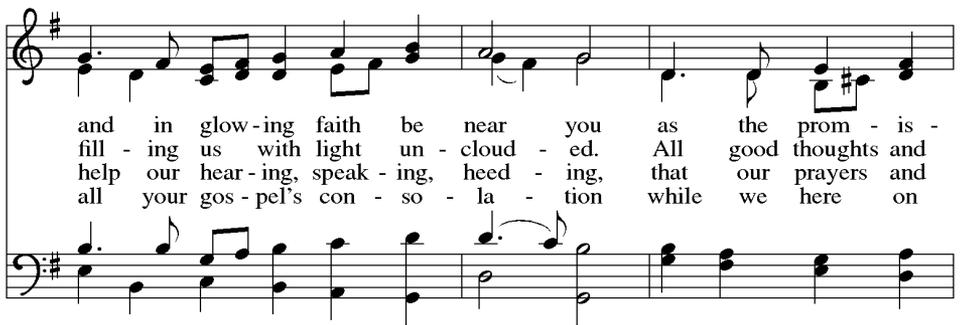
Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



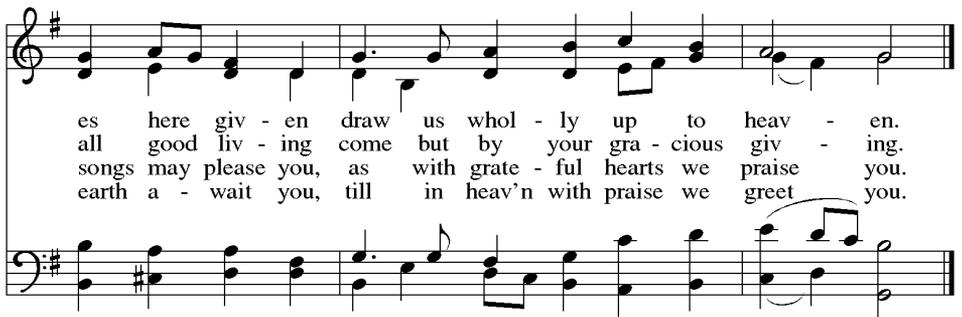
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

-COMMUNION-

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATTISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

***P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

And With His Stripes We Are Healed

G. Handel/Arr. D. Asman



In loving memory of Juanita Reda by
Muretta Yentzer.

In honor of my granddaughter, Shania Moyer's
March 13 birthday and my son-in-law, Tom
Weist's March 16 birthday, by Karen Fisher.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers: Tyson Murphy, Joan Murphy

Assisting Minister: Barb Yost

Lay Reader: Connie Kuntz

Acolyte: Phyllis Mihalich

Altar Guild: Phyllis Mihalich, Cindy Larkin

Council Money Duty: Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

USHERS NEEDED

We are in need of ushers for the April 2 Maundy Thursday noon service and the 6:15 pm evening service. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Shannon Weaver at 717=691-1618.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, March 15

4th SUNDAY IN LENT

CANNED AND BOXED JUICE FOR
NEW HOPE

8:30 am

Worship Service-Communion

Rev. Eric Anderson supplying for
Pastor Marleen

9:45 am

Sunday Church School

9:45 am

Children's SS and Choir

12:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, March 16

7:30 am

Garden Club

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

German Group

Tuesday, March 17

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 pm

Bread and Broth Meal

6:15 pm

Lenten Service

Following 6:15 pm service

Adult Choir

Thursday, March 19

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

6:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

6:30 pm

Church Council

Friday, March 20

1:00 pm

Book Club Read

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, March 21

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, March 22

5th SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 am

Worship Service-Communion

9:45 am

Sunday Church School

9:45 am

Children's SS and Choir

12:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

MARCH 22, 2026

1st Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

LAWN TRACTOR

During the last few years, it has become more apparent that we need to upgrade our current lawn mower. Property Committee, with Council's approval, has been searching for a lawn tractor that can mow as well as help with snow removal.

Property has found a lawn tractor to cut grass and also has an attachment to blow snow. The cost for the tractor with snow blower attachment is \$7,410 and will hopefully arrive by the end of April.

We will need to pay for the tractor when we pick it up so any outstanding balance will need to be funded by a line of credit loan from the bank.

If you would like to help pay for the tractor, please use one of the "Special Offering" lines on your offering envelope and mark it "mower."

BREAD AND BROTH AND LENTEN SERVICES

Come share a soup meal at St. Mark every Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM during Lent (through-March 25) followed by Lenten service/study time at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary.

SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS

March 18

*Open Donations

March 25

Worship & Music (including choirs)

When your group is providing soup, keep in mind that we will need 6 to 7 pots of soup. Everyone will have a chance to sign up to bring in soup on *Open Donation nights. Sign-up sheets are posted at entrances to the church for soup donations and/or to assist with cleanup after the dinner. As a reminder, if you are coming for the meal and are not providing soup that week, please bring a salad, bread, or a dessert to share. To further assist us with cleanup, we ask that you pack up any of your leftovers at the end of the dinner. Or if you desire, take out containers will be available to share your leftovers with others. If you have any questions about the dinner, please contact Marlin Brown or Phyllis Mihalich.

BOOK CLUB READ

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a Book Club Read on **Friday, March 20, at 1:00 PM**, in the parlor. The **REDWALL**, by Brian Jacques, is One of *TIME* Magazine's 100 Best Fantasy Books of All Time. It is a book that inspired a legend—the first novel in the beloved, bestselling Redwall saga.

SUMMER CAMP

Brochures for Summer Camp at either Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald are available at the church office, or you can contact our camp person, Connie Kuntz, at 717-503-5244. You can also register or find additional information online at www.lutherancamping.org.

Our congregation will provide half the basic camp fee, and scholarship money is available if needed. Both camps will again hold **OPEN HOUSE** on **March 15 and April 12 from 2:00 PM-4:30 PM**. Remember to get the camp person discount and if you register with your full payment before April 4, you are eligible for the full payment discount. The congregation will be billed later for half the basic fee. **Remember there are camps available for all ages with family camps and elder camp.**

The Bible study theme this year is ***Wear Love***. The theme verse is: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.” Colossians 3:12.

KEN SHUR COMING OUT OF RETIREMENT TO RUN ONE MORE BOSTON MARATHON

Ken Shur just couldn't stay away from running the Boston Marathon—one—more--time!

He has put his sneakers back on and is training to run in his 12th Boston Marathon on **Monday, April 20, 2026**, on behalf of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

As he has done in previous years, Ken would like to honor cancer survivors, those fighting cancer, and those who lost the battle by wearing the names of those individuals on his t-shirt. Let's provide Ken with as many names as possible to adorn his shirt on his final (we will see) Boston Marathon run. It means so much to him and Donna. Please submit the names of cancer survivors, those fighting cancer, or those who lost the battle to Karen Fisher in the church office **no later than Wednesday, April 1**. If you would like to sponsor him, please contact Ken at 717-462-1549.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On **Thursday, April 2**, there will be a Noon service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar in the Sanctuary. Then, Thursday evening, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a Seder Meal *with Communion* starting at 5:30 pm. This is a Christian version of the Passover Meal that Jewish families celebrate annually but remembering the Last Supper that Jesus shared with the first disciples as well. At 6:15 pm, we will move to the sanctuary for a brief time of worship and the stripping of the altar. You can come for both, just the meal, or just the service. We hope you will join us. Sign-up sheets for the meal are located on the bulletin board at the back entrance, in the Narthex, or call the Church Office. Our Seder Plate is very similar to the picture included with this notice except we substitute white meat chicken instead of the lamb shank. Please contact Marlin Brown if you have any questions.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK



Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite the community to the

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

Friday, April 3 | 11 AM to 12:15 PM

Led by local pastors, prayer walkers will start at one of the prayer sites and then cover the surrounding area in prayer.

Participants are invited to join together at 12:00 PM at Mechanicsburg First Church of God for closing prayer and worship. All are welcome!

Starting Prayer Sites

Mechanicsburg Area Senior High
500 South Broad Street

Turning Point Church
201 East Green Street

St. Mark Lutheran Church
117 West Keller Street

Park on the Square
1 West Main Street

First United Methodist Church
135 West Simpson Street

Closing Prayer & Worship

Mechanicsburg First Church of God, 28 East Main Street

Visit [Mechanicsburg & Upper Allen Area Churches](#) Facebook page for more information.



March 20	Book Club Read—Redwall
April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - Noon
April 2	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - 5:30 PM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - 6:15 PM
April 3	Good Friday Prayer Walk - 11:00 AM
April 3	Good Friday Worship Svc. - 7:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM
April 5	Potluck Easter Breakfast - 7:15 AM
April 5	Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt
April 12	Holy Humor Sunday
April 20	Ken Shur-Boston Marathon
May 9	Community Yard Sale
May 16	Spreading of tan bark
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
October (TBA)	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk

-WORD SEARCH-

Jesus Helps: The Blind Man

D A C X B Z O Z A G T P R A I S E
R V V M K Y X S G D S J P T X D X
L E J J P S Z W A N T S S P B M A
K S I G H T M N B Q A J E S U S M
B I U L B G B G B P R S U Z W R U
F W A L K H J V T D T V X L V U D
A H A T B S A B U N V H T K J N B
Y O U T R C W A S T N I D T X T E
E L C O I H M N S A I D L M K O C
Z E A B N C F B L I N D Q R P K Q
R I L E G G S Z C X C I T Y F G R
E Z L O I Z I D G W E I L O S W U
A N N N J R T Q I G W H A T H F C
R G I E Y O U R I T F Q N S O U V
T D D T T E L F J G A E R F U O D
H E B Y Y H S P X W C O C R T H A
F R D N N H E A R D Y R I G H T S

praise	shout	start	Jesus	heard	earth
whole	sight	right	bring	blind	what
said	your	walk	call	unto	want
city	you	one	was		



If you would like to sponsor a lily to be placed in the Chancel for Easter or donate money to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels, please complete the form below. **The cost is \$13.00 for each lily.** Place the form with your payment in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 22
Please be prompt with your orders.

**Make checks payable to “St. Mark” and note
“Altar Guild” on the memo line.**

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

LILIES **MEALS ON WHEELS**

- In honor of _____
- In memory of _____
- To the Glory of God

~~~~~  
Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

- Deliver to Shut-in
- Pick up after the 8:30 AM or 11:00 AM Easter Worship service

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of lilies ordered

Amount of Check: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

**THANK YOU!**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### UNBELIEVABLE!

This story from the Gospel of John captures the religious leadership in Jerusalem in a struggle to understand this Jesus who restores sight to a person born blind. This miraculous healing is so unbelievable, so contrary to the leaders' understanding, that they reject it altogether, even accusing the man of lying. Their quest for a certainty that feels familiar forces them to reject the miracle in front of them and closes them off to a greater truth—that the Messiah has come in Christ Jesus.

Certainty and its pursuit often disrupt our ability to see reality, which is at its core a mystery. *Mystery* in the Christian tradition refers to that deep truth that surpasses our understanding, as in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity or the efficacy of the sacraments. We know them as true, but not how or why they are so. Mysteries transcend the world of certainty, and our efforts to possess certainty, like those of the religious leaders in John 9, can cut us off from something miraculous happening right in front of us.

How much conflict and division in our church and in our world is amplified by our pursuit of certainty? How many possibilities have we missed in our commitment to the way things are? How often in our pursuit of certainty do we use it to hoard power and keep others on the outside looking in? Certainty is the enemy of community because it rejects the very notion that God may be doing a new thing.

Embracing mystery in our life of faith looks like learning to say “I don’t know,” “Maybe,” and “What if . . . ?” It asks us to let go of our need to control and understand, and to trust God’s promises more than our evidence. Mystery requires a posture of humility and curiosity, a willingness to look for God in inexplicable and unbelievable places and events. After all, we preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), an unbelievable notion if ever there was one.