

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
MARCH 8, 2026  
THIRD 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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Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)**

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Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com)  
Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

**Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir  
Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064  
Email: [denisehirn@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)**

**Brad Hull, Director of Music  
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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

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**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY**

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness*

**GRATITUDE FOR A PAST MUSIC DONATION**

St. Mark is the proud owner of a 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells. Over the past two years, the bell choir has enhanced our worship during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Eastertide. They have played a wide selection of pieces including How Brightly Shine the Morning Star; Seek Ye First, the Kingdom of God; How Can I Keep from Singing; Faith of Our Fathers; O Come, O Come Emmanuel; The First Nowell; Dona Nobis Pacem; Fairest Lord Jesus; and All Creatures of our God and King! In today's money, this set of bells would cost over \$20,000. In 1977, Gil and Jenny Evans and Dave and Lew Snyder purchased our set of handbells as a memorial gift to the church. As some of you may recall, Gil Evans was St. Mark's sexton at one point and Jenny used to greet the children going downstairs for Sunday School each Sunday. The Snyders were also heavily involved at St. Mark being choir members and serving on Church Council. Should you have a few minutes during today's service, please say a prayer of thanks to God for the wonderful gift from the Evans and Snyders.

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

## PRELUDE

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

Arr. P. Couta

St. Mark Bell Choir

## 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

(PLEASE SING STANZAS 1, 2, 8, AND THEN LAST.)

### FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
*Insert one or more of stanzas 3-11 or this general stanza 2:*

2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,  
*Last* All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.

in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.

we of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.

that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.  
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

#### *The Woman at the Well*

8 Recall the outcast woman  
with whom our Lord conversed:  
Christ gave her living water  
to quench her deepest thirst.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearning;  
Christ offers us his word.  
Then may our lips be burning  
to witness to our Lord.

**\*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.  
Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench your 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.  
C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

*Grant, O God, Your Blessing*

J. Carter

## FIRST LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

R 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?"

R The word of the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM: Psalm 95**

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. Lectern side, the regular print; pulpit side, the bold print.)*

<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 his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.**

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

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

<sup>8</sup> **Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.**

<sup>9</sup> They put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years long I detested that generation and said, “This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.”**

<sup>11</sup> So I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter into my rest.”

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

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

R 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.

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 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** 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.”

**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.

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\*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 "My God, My God, Why Have You  
Forsaken Me" 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.

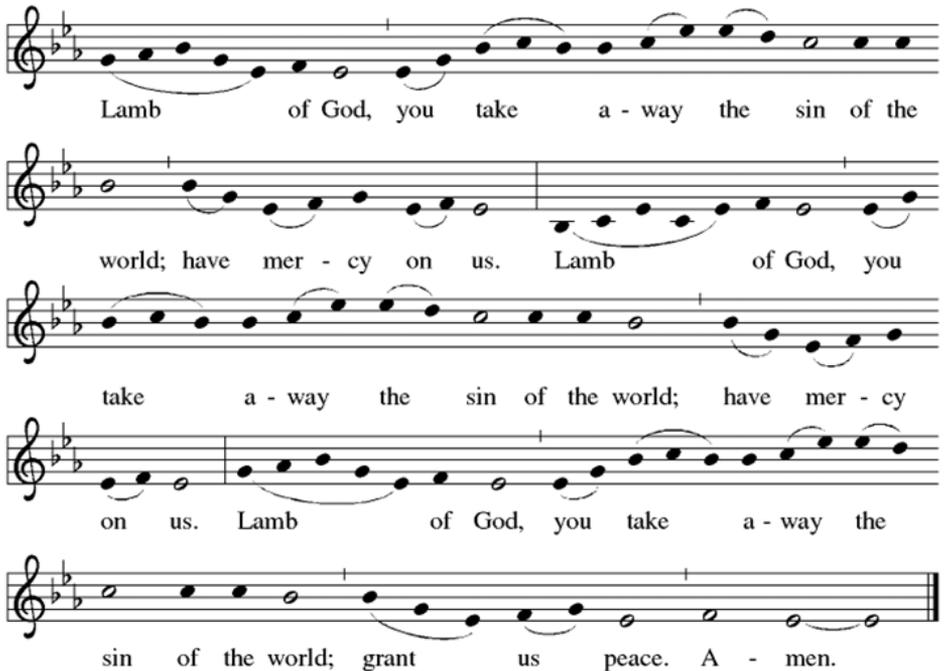
## \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## 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.

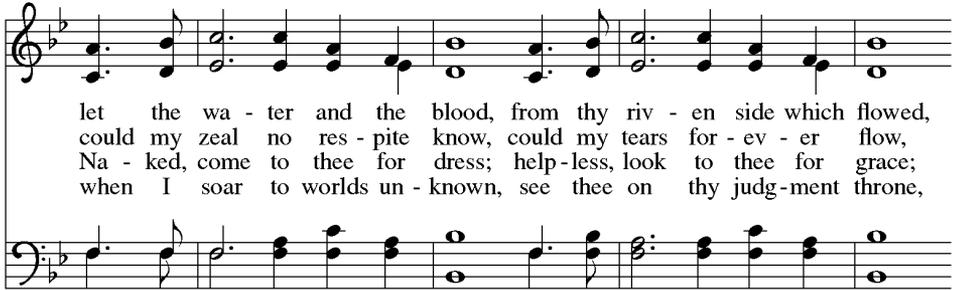
Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

# -COMMUNION-

## 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!

**\*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

# Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A        Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C        Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

P. Bunjes



In honor of Isabella, Brannon, Wyett, and Aiden by Maha and Baha Shaner.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Ushers:** Keith Hensel, Frankie Hensel

**Assisting Minister:** Karen Heath

**Lay Reader:** Beverly Reihart

**Acolyte:** Katie Stull

**Altar Guild:** Terry Shaner, Beverly Reihart

**Council Money Duty:** Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, March 8**

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

Worship Service-Communion

Sunday Church School

Children's SS and Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Monday, March 9**

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

German Group

**Tuesday, March 10**

6:00 pm

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

Financial Audit

**Wednesday, March 11**

11:00 am

5:30 pm

6:15 pm

Following 6:15 pm service

Bible Study

Bread and Broth Meal

Lenten Service

Adult Choir

**Thursday, March 12**

9:00 am

1:00 pm

6:00 pm

2:30 pm

Property Committee

Fellowship Committee

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Violin Lessons

**Friday, March 13**

3:45 pm

REMARKER DEADLINE

Violin Lessons

**Saturday, March 14**

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Sunday, March 15**

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

Worship Service-Communion

Rev. Eric Anderson supplying for

Pastor Marleen

Sunday Church School

Children's SS and Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**LESSONS:**

**FIRST LESSON**

**PSALM**

**SECOND LESSON**

**GOSPEL**

**MARCH 15, 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 (February 25-March 25) followed by Lenten service/study time at 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary.

### SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS

March 11	Church Council
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 will be 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, Fellowship Chair.

## 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 the 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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Please contact Marlin Brown or Phyllis Mihalich 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 (TBA)	St. Mark Day Camp
September (TBA)	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
October (TBA)	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 <sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Walk

**-WORD SEARCH-**

**THE WOMAN AT THE WELL WORD SEARCH**

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

<b>CATTLE</b>	<b>GIFT</b>	<b>LIVING</b>	<b>SIXTH</b>
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>GOD</b>	<b>MEAT</b>	<b>SPIRIT</b>
<b>CHRIST</b>	<b>HOOR</b>	<b>MESSIAH</b>	<b>SYCHAR</b>
<b>CITY</b>	<b>HUSBANDS</b>	<b>MOUNTAIN</b>	<b>THIRST</b>
<b>DEEP</b>	<b>JACOB</b>	<b>PITCHER</b>	<b>WATER</b>
<b>DISCIPLES</b>	<b>JERUSALEM</b>	<b>PROPHET</b>	<b>WEARIED</b>
<b>DRANK</b>	<b>JESUS</b>	<b>SALVATION</b>	<b>WELL</b>
<b>DRINK</b>	<b>JEWS</b>	<b>SAMARITAN</b>	<b>WOMAN</b>
<b>EVERLASTING</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>WORSHIPPED</b>
<b>FATHER</b>			



## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

### ONE IN A THOUSAND

Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds maybe thousands, of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!