

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST 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

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: 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

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Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

OFFERTORIES THROUGHOUT LENT

F.J. Haydn's *Seven Last Words Of Christ*

G.F. Handel's *Messiah* is the most famous example of an oratorio, a sacred work with orchestra, chorus, duets, and solos. F J. Haydn wrote an oratorio on the seven last words of Christ on the cross which utilized pietistic poetry of his day. Haydn also adapted three arrangements of the *Seven Last Words of Christ* for orchestra only, string quartet, and keyboard. The offertories throughout Lent including Palm/Passion Sunday will be excerpts of each of the seven last words (except for one since there are only 6 Sundays). The culture in Haydn's day emphasized balance and proportion, not uncontrolled emotions. Thus, these works demonstrate strong sorrow but also vulnerability, love, tenderness, and quiet despair. The music invites us to open our souls to a broader and more subtle understanding of the crucifixion

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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

GATHERING: PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the Lord has made;

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***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

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 when in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

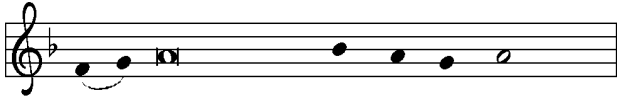
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*GREETING

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,

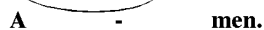
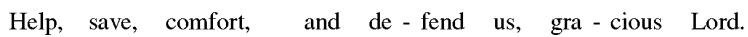
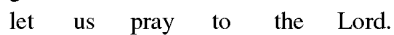
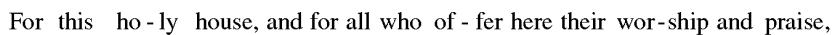


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

(Continued next page)



*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.
Lord God our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Chrst, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

ANTHEM

Where Are the Shepherds Now

Words by J. Williams/Music by J. Stevens

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

R A Reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

(Continued next page)

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 32

(Please read the Psalm responsively. Women, the regular print; men the bold print.)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

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

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

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

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶ **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

⁷ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸ **You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

⁹ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

(Continued next page)

¹⁰ 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.”

¹¹ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹² Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

R A reading from Romans.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

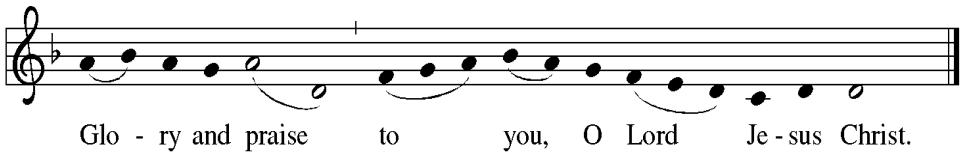
¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*LENTEN ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NOISY SUNDAY COLLECTION

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

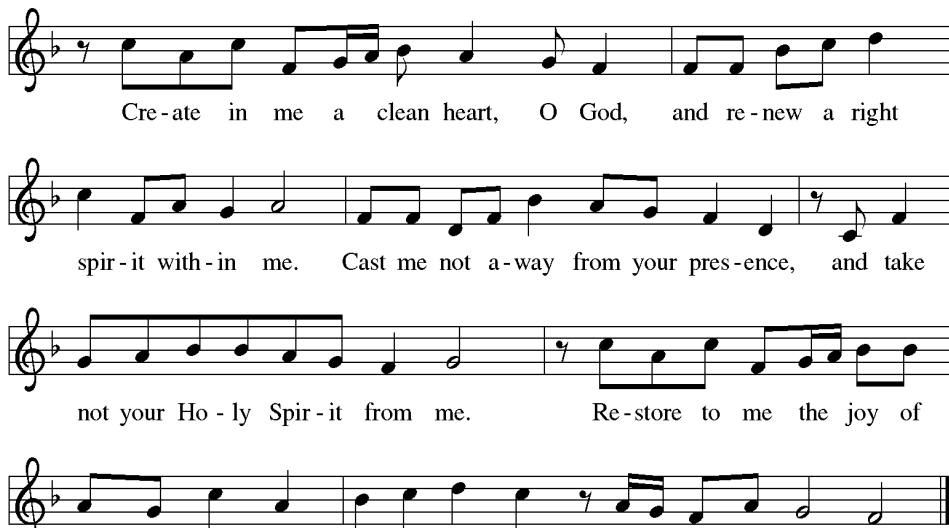
OFFERTORY

Excerpt from "Father, Forgive Them for They Know Not
What They Do" 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.

***EUCCHARISTIC 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!



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.

-COMMUNION-

Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and

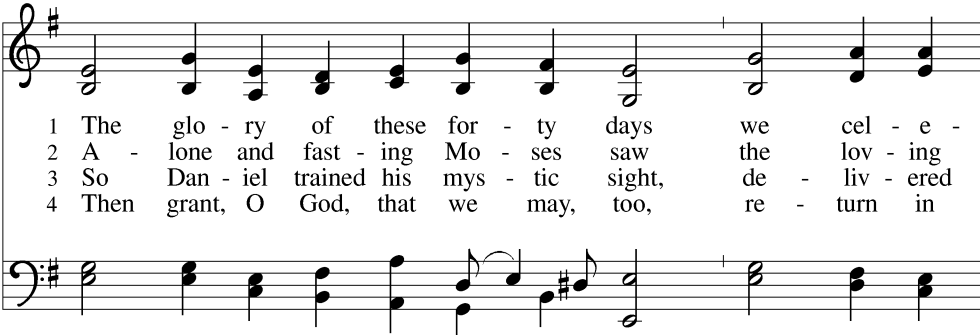


God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

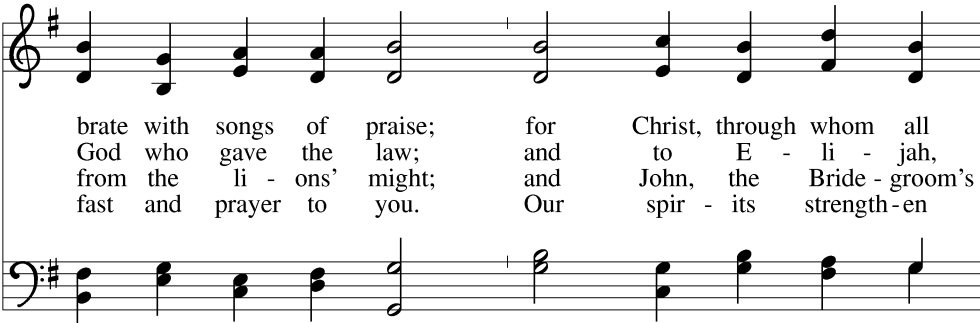
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

- 7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

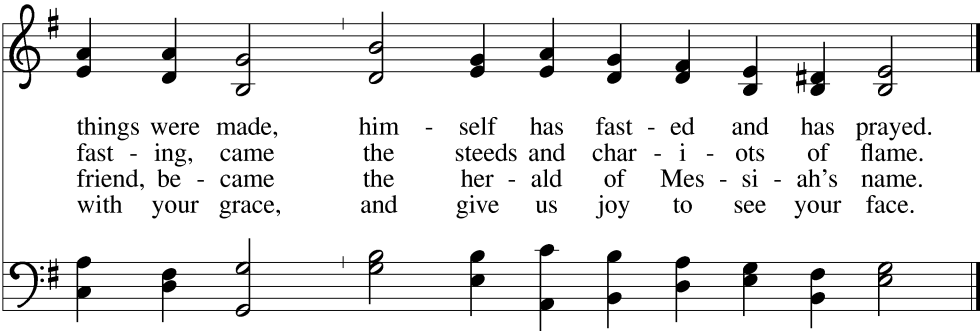
The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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***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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Lenten Postlude

M. Kock



In memory of loved ones by Tyson and Joan Murphy.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers:	Ken Shur, Donna Shur
Assisting Minister:	Kevin Amos
Lay Reader:	Beverly Reihart
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Altar Guild:	Joan Murphy, Cindy Larkin
Council Money Duty:	Barb Yost, Amy Gimbel

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, February 22

8:30 am

Following worship

Following meeting

12:00 pm

1st SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Service-Communion

Annual Congregation Meeting

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, February 23

2:00 pm

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

German Group

Tuesday, February 24

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

Wednesday, February 25

5:30 pm

6:15 pm

Following 6:15 pm service

Bread and Broth Meal

Lenten Service

Adult Choir

Thursday, February 26

6:00 pm

2:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Violin Lessons

Friday, February 27

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, February 28

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, March 1

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Service-Communion

Sunday Church School

Children's SS and Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

MARCH 1, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Stay after worship service this morning for our Annual Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

RALEIGH RINGERS AT MT. GRETNA

The Raleigh Ringers are performing at Mt. Gretna Playhouse on **Sunday, June 28, at 4:00 PM** They are a phenomenal group of performers truly worth hearing (and seeing)! You can find numerous videos on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-l_0Dn4eJw
<https://youtu.be/lPfCthM1wIE?si=L66tP-sfKRxz63qq>

A number of folks at St. Mark speak so highly of them and would like to gather a group to go together. Tickets are \$35 for good seats and there is a \$2 discount for a group of 12 or more. Depending on the number, we would look into transportation for the group to include those who don't drive. Tickets for this event will go very quickly and Thelma has an inside track before they go on sale to the general public. **Please speak with Thelma Fissel on or before February 22 if you would like to go or if you have any questions.** (thefissel@icloud.com or 717-697-5354.

BREAD AND BROTH

Come share a soup meal at St. Mark **every Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM evening during Lent (February 25 through March 25)**. Stay and learn about Power Couples of the Bible during our worship/study time at **6:15 PM**.

An Invitation—

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for VELMA MUMPER

March 4, 1923—October 25, 2025

St. Mark members are welcome to attend a
Celebration of Life for Velma Mumper.

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Fellowship Hall from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.
Light refreshments provided.

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.

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.

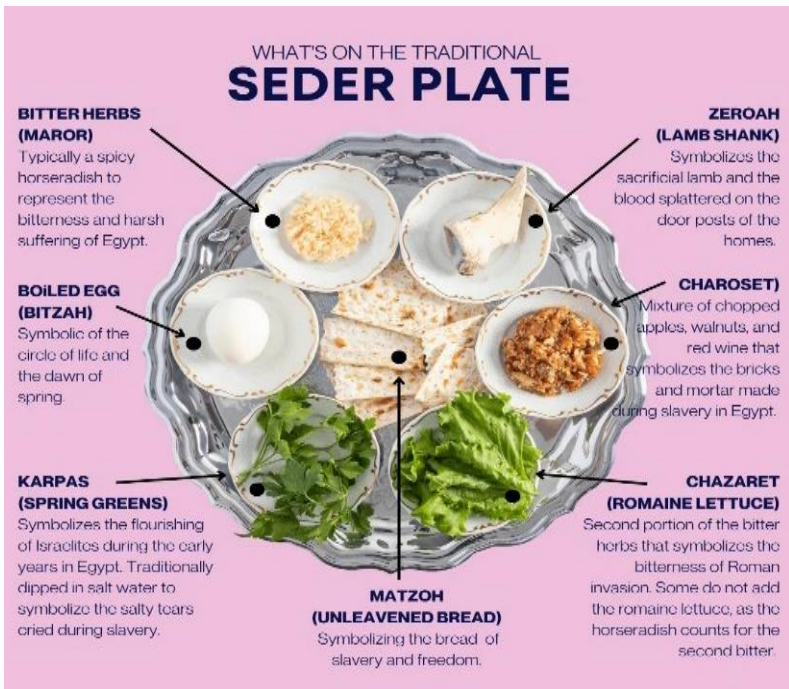
MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

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 below except we substitute white meat chicken instead of the lamb shank.

Please contact Marlin Brown if you have any questions.





Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Place: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
Back Yard

Set Up: Starts at 7:00 AM

Sell: 9:00 AM
Trinkets and Treasures

Tables: Available from church to use.
You must carry outside and return.
*(We are asking for donations for use
of the tables towards the purchase of
a new sign for our back yard.)*

Refreshments:
Available for purchase.



February 22	Annual Congregation Meeting
February 25	Bread and Broth Begins
February 25	Lenten Services Begin
March 7	Celebration of Life for Velma Mumper
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

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



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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!**

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

### FORTY DAYS OF HUMILITY

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, ‘What can get through from such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility’” (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.