

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 1, 2026
SECOND 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
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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

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Sunday, March 1, 2026

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Monday, March 2, 2026

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

**Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202
Saturday, March 7, 2026**

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

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

PRELUDE

My Song Is Love Unknown

arr. R. Vaughn Williams

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

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



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

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. 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.

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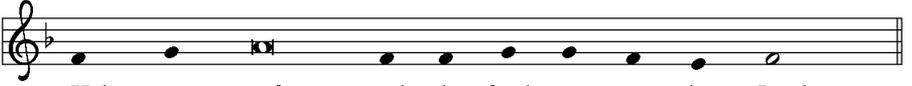
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



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.
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

ANTHEM

This Do in Remembrance of Me

J. Hunicutt

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

R A Reading from Genesis.

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM: Psalm 121

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

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶ **so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall ¹ keep you safe.

⁸ **The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

R A reading from Romans.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

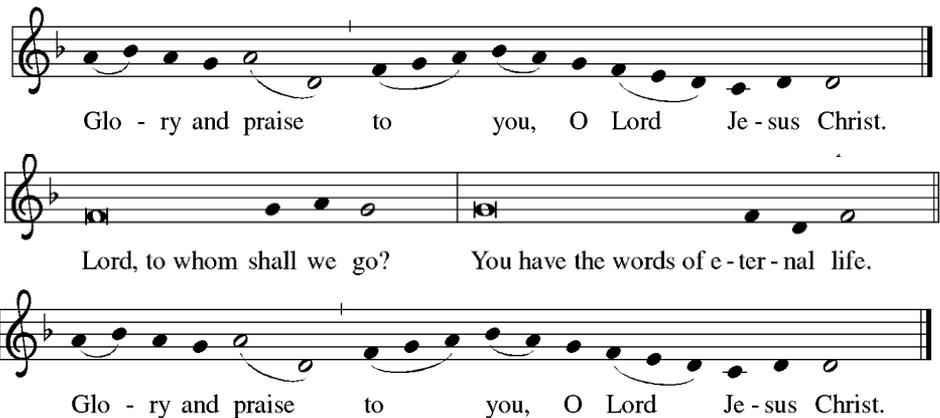
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¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

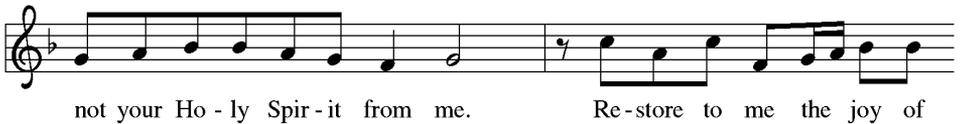
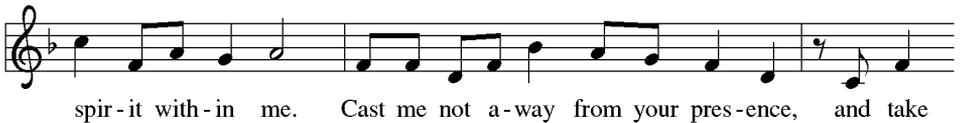
Excerpt from "Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise"
from *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

F.J. Haydn

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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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.

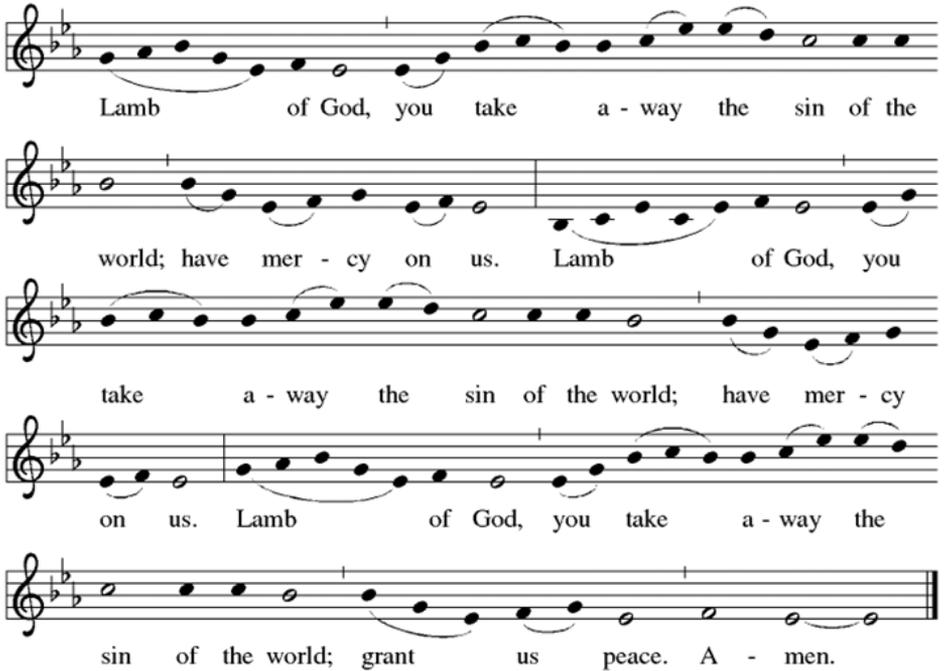
*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- 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.

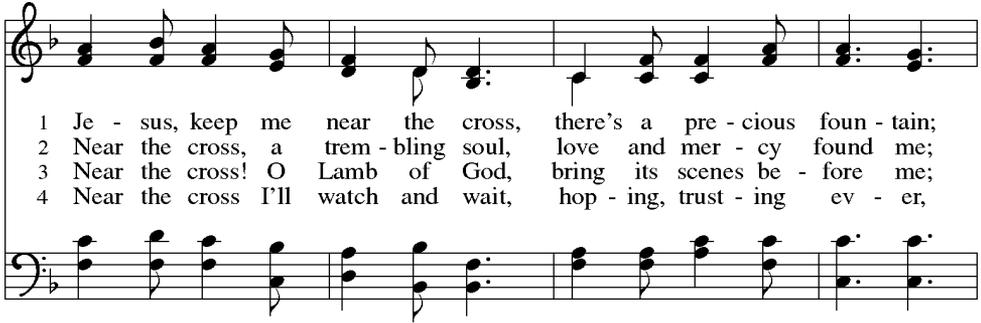
A The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

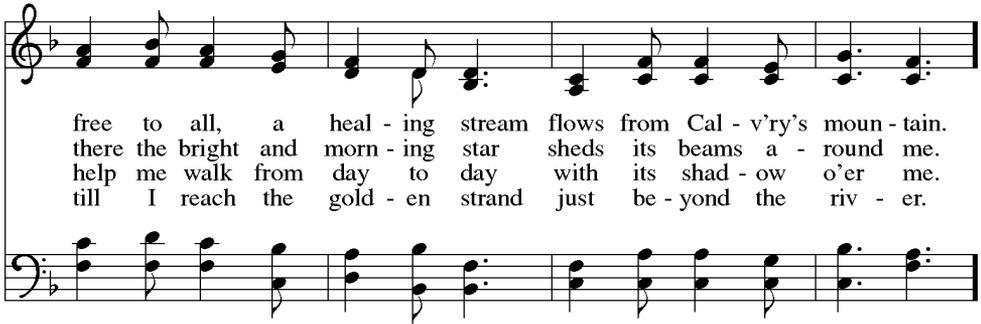
Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

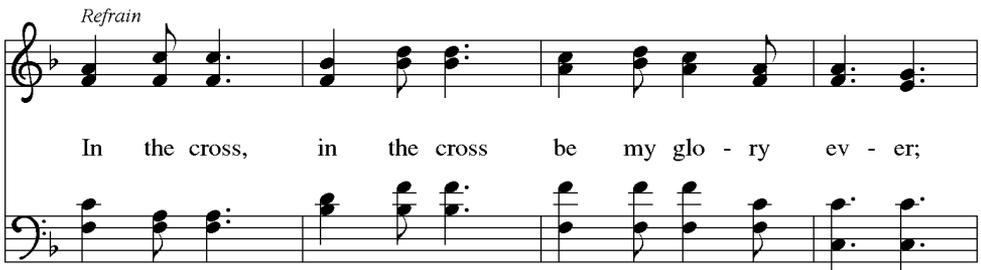


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

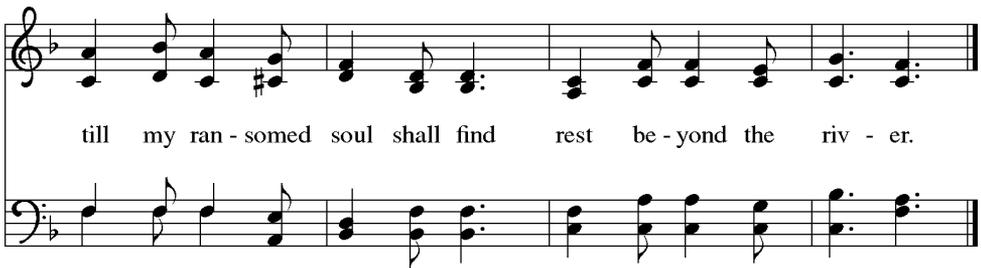


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

-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

Blessed Assurance



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood,
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Pastorale on "In the Cross"

I. Conkey/Arr. J. Linker



In memory of Naomi Kuntz by John and
Connie Kuntz.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers: Gene Shaner, Terry Shaner

Assisting Minister: Barb Yost

Lay Reader: Sara Jane Miller

Acolyte: Joan Murphy

Altar Guild: Sara Jane Miller, Andrea Sassaman

Council Money Duty: Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

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

Monday, March 2

2:45 pm
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons
German Group

Tuesday, March 3

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

Wednesday, March 4

11:00 am
12:30 pm
2:00 pm
3:30 pm
5:30 pm
6:15 pm
Following 6:15 pm service

Bible Study
Evangelism Committee
Worship & Music Committee
Worship Planning Committee
Bread and Broth Meal
Lenten Service
Adult Choir

Thursday, March 5

6:00 pm
2:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Violin Lessons

Friday, March 6

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, March 7

1:00 pm

6:30 pm

Celebration of Life for
Velma Mumper-Fellowship Hall
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, March 8

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm

3rd 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 8, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

-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 4	*Open Donations
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.

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

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 if you have any questions.



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
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk

-WORD SEARCH-

Blessed Assurance

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

blessedness	sacredness	serenades	crusades	essences
declare	durable	release	rescues	assure
decree	elders	endure	leader	secure
class	clean	clear	erase	learn
able	bare	cure	lean	read
real	seal			



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!**

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### A NEW THING IS UNDERWAY

“How can anyone be born after having grown old?” asks Nicodemus (John 3:4), articulating a question that we as the church continue to ask today. Change is hard. Transformation seems impossible. And yet, Jesus responds that in baptism we are made as new as if we had been born again, with a new heart able to perceive the reign of God. All things are possible with God!

Nicodemus is justifiably perplexed by this proclamation. We may resonate with his confusion as we look at the world around us and in the mirror before us, wondering if anything can ever truly change. Can the violence and suffering of war ever truly end? Can this broken relationship be mended? Can this illness be healed? Can hatred, oppression, and abuse be thwarted, transformed by the power of love? When we look around us, change may seem in short supply.

And yet, when we get curious, we may also become aware of signs of change, transformation, and rebirth emerging all around us. In northern regions, we can see the melting snow and first shoots of green from rousing plants, signaling the change from winter to spring. We can see mutual aid networks, community care efforts, and collective action emerge in response to social and political chaos. We can sense the tug of the Holy Spirit on our hearts, calling us toward deeper humility, compassion, and solidarity as we live in the hope of Christ.

The Lenten call—to set down what we can to attend more fully to God—draws us into a posture of curiosity that may deepen our awareness of the small but potent ways God’s kingdom is already breaking in all around us. “Do not be astonished,” says Jesus (v. 7); a new thing is underway.