

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 22, 2026
FIFTH 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

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MARCH 22, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY COMMUNION**



INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Sunday, March 22, 2026

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

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

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Disconsulate

Arr. J. Bert Carlson

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.

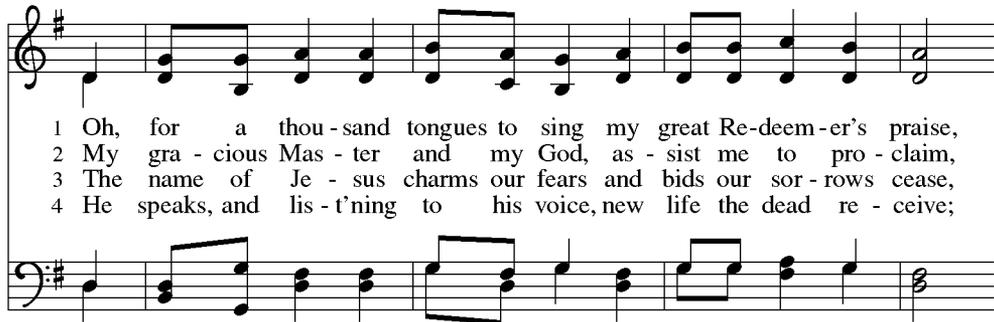
C Amen.

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**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***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.



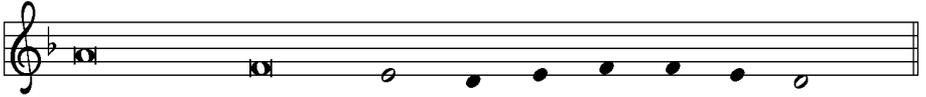
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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.
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

ANTHEM

Surely He Has Born Our Griefs

J. Carter

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

R A Reading from Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath,

prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’” ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130

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

¹ Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

² **If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?**

³ For there is forgiveness with you; therefore, you shall be feared.

⁴ **I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.**

⁵ My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

⁶ **O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;**

⁷ with him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

R A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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



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

***GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house

consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with

her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
NOISY SUNDAY**

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 "It is Finished" 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The music is written in a single melodic line.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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

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.

-COMMUNION-

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

***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

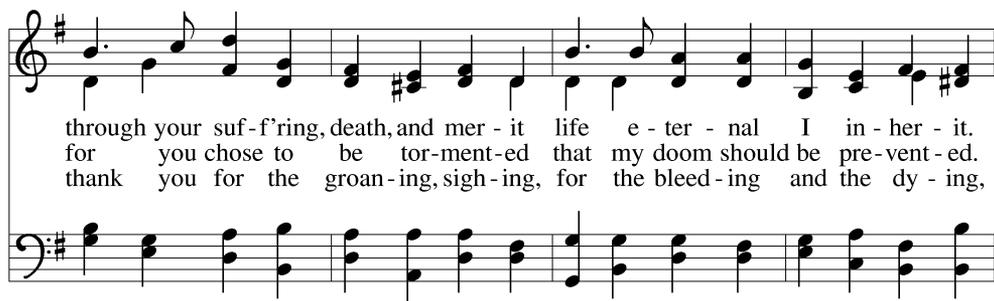
Christ, the Life of All the Living



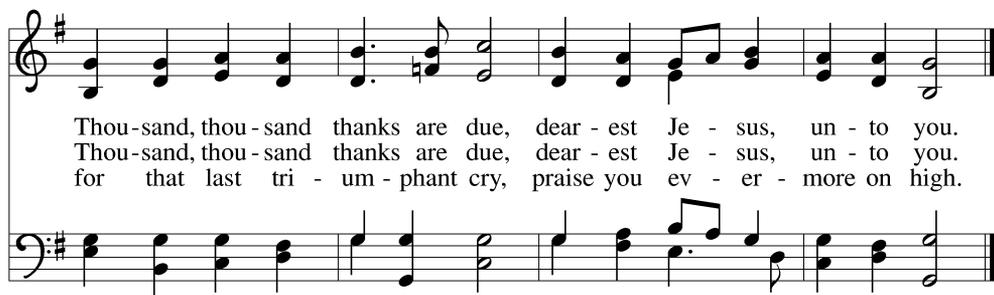
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

F. Maker / Arr. J. Linker



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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers: Marlin Brown, Sandy Brown

Assisting Minister: Tina Freidhof

Lay Reader: Amy Gimbel

Acolyte: Audrey Johnston

Altar Guild: Sandy Brown, Michele Connor

Council Money Duty: Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, March 22

5th SUNDAY IN LENT

NOISY SUNDAY

8:30 am

Worship Service-Communion

9:45 am

Sunday Church School

9:45 am

Children's SS and Choir

12:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, March 23

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

German Group

Tuesday, March 24

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

Wednesday, March 25

5:15 pm

Bread and Broth Meal

6:15 pm

Lenten Service

Following 6:15 pm service

Adult Choir

Thursday, March 26

6:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Friday, March 27

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

PALM SUNDAY

8:30 am

Worship Service-Communion

9:45 am

Sunday Church School

9:45 am

Children's SS and Choir

12:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

MARCH 29, 2026-PALM SUNDAY

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 50:4-9a

PSALM

Psalms 31:9-16

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

GOSPEL

The Passion of Our Lord According to Matthew

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

UPDATE—CHANGE TO TIME OF SOUP DROP OFF AND MEAL FOR BREAD AND BROTH

During Fellowship meeting, a change to the time of the Lenten meal so that all kitchen clean up help can also attend the worship service was discussed. **Soups to be at church by 5:00 pm and serving will begin at 5:15 pm. Soups will be left out so that those who cannot get there until 5:30 pm will still be able to eat.** Paper products will be used to see how it all works in getting the end result of all attending the service. A suggestion was given to members to try using crockpot liners in the aid of the cleanup. **Worship service will remain at 6:15 pm.**

SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS

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. If you have any questions about the dinner, please contact Marlin Brown or Phyllis Mihalich.

LAWN TRACTOR

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 that will hopefully arrive by the end of April.

We have collected \$2,972.00 toward the cost of the tractor which leaves us with a current balance of \$4,438.00.

We will need to pay for the tractor when it is delivered 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.”

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 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.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK

Mechanicsburg Area Churches invite the community to the Good Friday Prayer Walk. It will be held on **Friday, April 3 from 11:00 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 Noon at Mechanicsburg First Church of God for closing prayer and worship. Pastor Marleen will lead the walk from St. Mark at 11:00 AM.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Easter EGG HUNT!

Join us for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

117 West Keller Street,
Mechanicsburg, PA

Saturday, April 11, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.

Eggs, Treats & Prizes! All are welcome!



March 29	Palm Sunday
April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - Noon
April 2	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - 5:30 PM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Svc. - 6:15 PM
April 3	Good Friday Prayer Walk - 11:00 AM
April 3	Good Friday Worship Svc. - 7:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM
April 5	Potluck Easter Breakfast - 7:15 AM
April 5	Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt
April 12	Holy Humor Sunday
April 20	Ken Shur-Boston Marathon
May 9	Community Yard Sale
May 16	Spreading of tan bark
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
October (TBA)	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk

-WORD SEARCH-

Jesus Raises Lazarus

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

WEeping	TEACHER	LAZARUS	SISTERS
BROTHER	BETHANY	BURIED	MARTHA
SMELL	RAISE	JESUS	WEPT
SICK	LIFE	TOMB	MARY



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!**

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### ROLL THE STONE AWAY

You can understand why they don't want to roll the stone away. "Already there is a stench," Martha says (John 11:39). Why open the grave? Why let out that smell? There could be no purpose. After all, Lazarus is dead.

This is not unbelief. "I believe that you are the Messiah," Martha says (v. 27), confident that her brother would one day rise again. But it is a faith that desperately wants God to provide an escape from suffering and struggle: "If you had been here," both sisters say, "my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32). The presence of Jesus, they think, should protect them from pain and death.

What they don't understand, though, is that the places of pain and suffering are exactly where Jesus goes. He enters dead places to bring hope to life. He transforms the stench of decay into an aroma of thriving. He summons Lazarus out of the tomb to walk into freedom.

This is why Jesus tells them to take away the stone. He wants to open the place that they are convinced holds only grief, and to expose what they believe to be a shameful smell. Yes, it is difficult to face. However, only when the grave is opened can Lazarus respond to Jesus' call. Martha and Mary must remove the stone that hides what they do not want to bear, so that new life can emerge from the tomb.

What are the stone-covered places in your life? What are the places in your heart that you are convinced hold only pain, decay, and fear? In the tender love of Jesus, you do not need to hide them. Jesus is calling you to open them. He will enter these places with resurrection power, transforming death into life and shame into glory. Facing these tombs takes courage. But you can trust that Jesus will bring healing to your brokenness. He is in the business of calling the dead back to life. Let the stones be rolled away.