



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

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.

Thanks be to God!



FEBRUARY 22, 2026

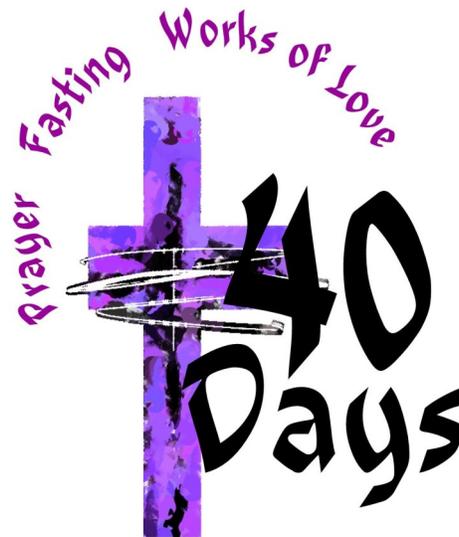
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte:

Lay Reader:

Greeters:

Ushers:

Assisting Minister:

Crucifer:

Communion Assistants:

Council Duties: Jerry Herman, Nobia Summer

Attendance last Sunday, February 15th was 71 (includes YouTube Live viewers).

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00 AM

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

*Please stand as able

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

Setting 10 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, *Silence for reflection.* Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: And gives you life and peace. C: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"Everlasting God"

CCLI # 4556538

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE (Setting 10) all sing

ELW p.203

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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 Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen.

WORD

LESSONS

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"We are turning, Lord"

ELW p.205

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. C: Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 4:1-11

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"When We Are Tested"

ACS #922

*APOSTLES' CREED

ELW p.105

*PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.....Hear us, O God, C: Your mercy is great.

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

MEAL

THE OFFERING

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW #803

OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

ELW #885

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **C: Amen.**

***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 our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE FOR LENT**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)**

ELW p.207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: II**

ELW p.134

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

DISTRIBUTION: *We welcome all who believe Jesus is Lord to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. An usher will guide you to the center aisle to receive communion. You may return to your seat by the outer aisle. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand and communion will be brought to you. After communing all who wish may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.*

AGNUS DEI (O LAMB OF GOD)

ELW p.208

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Here Is Love”

CCLI # 3287884

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING** P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always. Together let us proclaim our mission:

C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God’s love. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

ELW #624

***DISMISSAL:** P: Go in peace. Believe the good news. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

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

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 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." 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'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 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.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. 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.

Romans 5:12-19

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 for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin F. Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2026 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre/Mark Oakley
Secretary: Patricia Hoke
Preschool Co-Director: Randy Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright