



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LENTEN EXHORTATION

God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018
12:10PM (COMMUNION) & 6:10PM



A LENTEN JOURNEY USING "THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Mid-Week Service

February 21, 2018

**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW –red book

“THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS”

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** INVOCATION - LITANY : PSALM 51:1-10**

P: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: O my God, in you I trust.

P: Do not let me be put to shame; Do not let my enemies exult over me.

C: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

P: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; Teach me your paths.

C: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

P: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**C: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

P: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

C: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW #656

Verse 1 **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**

Verse 2 **Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

Verse 3 **We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

Verse 4 **From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O God, by the suffering and death of your son you grant to us through faith, citizenship in the kingdom of God. Help us always to trust in you and your promises that we may live with courage and hope, in and through your son, Jesus Christ, our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

II Corinthians 4:7-10, 16-18; 5:1

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. So, we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

HYMN OF THE DAY**"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"****ELW #324**

- Verse 1 **In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- Verse 2 **When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- Verse 3 **When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**
- Verse 4 **Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER*12:10 SERVICE****HOLY COMMUNION*****THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER V**

ELW p. 208

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Traditional

ELW P. 208

SENDING***BENEDICTION**

ELW P. 209

SENDING HYMN*"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"****ELW #608**

- Verse 1 **Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.**
- Refrain **Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"**
- Verse 2 **Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Refrain**
- Verse 3 **Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Refrain**

40 DAYS OF GIVING FOR DISASTER RELIEF

The season of Lent is often an occasion for self-reflection, prayer and fasting. Lent is also a time to think about, and do things for those who suffer in our communities. Each year St. Mark's Global Missions Team puts out a challenge to our congregation which impacts many lives. This year's 40 Days of Giving for Disaster Relief is a way to respond to those in the aftermath of disaster. Similar to those who give blood, one pint may not seem like much but it has the potential to save more than one life. Combined with other gifts, the impact can be far reaching. This year we hope to use the funds for wherever we feel is the greatest need. The goal is \$5000. If you wish to donate to the 40 Days of Giving for Global Disaster Response campaign, please write checks to St. Mark's with *40 Days of Giving* on the memo line.



40 DAYS
of Giving

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

Though the Scriptures do not mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday). Though not certain how it developed, by 350 A.D., the 40-day fast was already established. The earliest reference to a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal Letter of Athanasius in 330 A.D. Today, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (Sundays are excluded to preserve the number 40).

Historically, Lent had two major emphases: 1) It was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. All Christians were to examine their lives and repent where necessary; and 2) It was a time of instruction and preparation for the catechumens who were preparing themselves to become members of the Christian Church. Lent is an open invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ through a conversion of heart and mind. For the baptized it is a return to their baptism in repentance, confession of sin, amendment of life, through disciplines that deepen and foster one's spiritual life, and acts of self sacrifice that focus our call to service.

Lent is taking up our call to become, as Luther said, "little Christs." The work of lent is a noble work of grace and the Spirit. We are invited and empowered to struggle, grow, and live into who we are called to be, and to become as those joined to Christ in baptism.

LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES

"THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

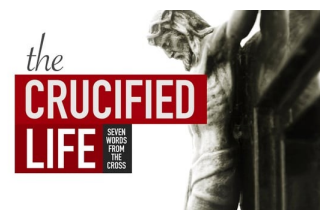
12:10PM SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

6:10PM SERVICE (PRECEDED BY SUPPER IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER AT 5:20PM)

The observance of Lent evolved over many years in the early church that grew out of preparing candidates to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was an extended period of preparation through instruction, examination, and prayer. Candidates explored seriously their identity both as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve under the Law, and more importantly their identity as daughters and sons of Christ given by grace – given by Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism.

Our Lenten discipline follows that of the early church. Lent recognizes, by grace through faith, that we are not all who we are called to be nor are we who we are called to become. We all are a work of formation in progress. Our 40 day journey is a call to daily drown, to know and feel contrition for, and to repent – to turn from sin; and a call to put on the mind, character, and attributes of Christ. Both activities – "putting off" sin and "putting on" Christ are the privileges of the baptized granted by grace and the work of the Spirit.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) As we take up the discipline of the crucified life for ourselves we will gather at the foot of the cross each week to listen to and to learn from Christ the Crucified in his last seven sayings from the cross. My prayer is that God will renew and transform our lives, will deepen our relationship with Him, and with each other as the body of Christ.



Lenten Midweek Services

- ◆ **Mid-Week 3: Wednesday, February 28** "Woman, behold, your son!...Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26–27)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 4: Wednesday, March 7** "I thirst." (John 19:28)
- ◆ **Mid-Week 5: Wednesday, March 14** "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
- ◆ **Midweek 6: Wednesday, March 21** "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)
- ◆ **Good Friday: Friday, March 30 (Only at 8pm)** "It is finished." (John 19:30)