



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 28, 2018
12:10PM (COMMUNION) & 6:10PM



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

"Woman, behold, your son!...Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26-27)

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Mid-Week Service

February 28, 2018

**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW – red book

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**

"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"

ELW #628

Verse 1 **Jerusalem, my happy home, when shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?**

Verse 2 **O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.**

Verse 3 **Thy gardens and thy gallant walks continually are green;
there grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs as nowhere else are seen.**

Verse 4 **There trees forevermore bear fruit and evermore do spring;
there evermore the angels sit and evermore do sing.**

Verse 5 **Jerusalem, Jerusalem, God grant that I may see
thine endless joy, and of the same partaker ever be!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Gracious Father, your Son emptied himself of heavenly glory to become one of us, to join the human family, to suffer, and to die on the cross. Help us to cherish those whom we love for the unknown span of time allotted to us, looking always to your Son, who names and claims us to be brothers and sisters in Your heavenly family, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

I John 4:7-12; 19-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL READING

John 19: 16b-19; 26-27

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Old Rugged Cross"

- Verse 1 **On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain**
- Chorus* **So I'll cherish the old rugged cross till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown**
- Verse 2 **O the old rugged cross so despised by the world has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary**
- Verse 3 **In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine a wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me**
- Verse 4 **To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, it's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away where His glory forever I'll share**

***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**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

ELW #773

- Verse 1 **Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:**
- Refrain* **Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
- Verse 2 **When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: (Refrain)**
- Verse 3 **When the darkness appears, and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: (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.



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"

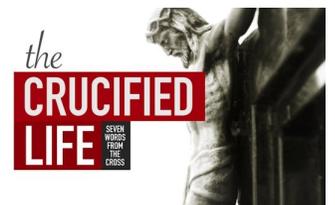
12:10PM SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

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 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 (8pm)** "It is finished." (John 19:30)