



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, MARCH 14, 2018

12:10PM (COMMUNION) & 6:10PM



A LENTEN JOURNEY USING

“THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS”

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Mid-Week Service

March 14, 2018

**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW – red book

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION - LITANY: PSALM 143

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.

C: Do not enter into judgement with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

P: For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

C: Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

P: I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands.

C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

P: Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

C: Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

P: Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.

C: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

P: Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

C: For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.

All: In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.

*GATHERING HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

ELW #623

Verse 1 **Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

Verse 2 **Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

Verse 3 **Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling. Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.**

Verse 4 **While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Heavenly Father, we are filled with awe and humility that you chose to send your Son to suffer and die for us on the cross. As we meditate on your Son's words in his suffering, help us to know the depth and cost of our sin, and lead us through faith to embrace both the horror and sweetness of his sacrifice for us, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:35-46

And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ELW #338

- Verse 1 **Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- Verse 2 **Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one
Who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears,
Two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- Verse 3 **I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

***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**

"Abide with Me"

ELW #629

- Verse 1 **Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**
- Verse 3 **I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**
- Verse 5 **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

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. This year we hope to use the funds wherever we feel is the greatest need. The goal is \$4000. So far, we have received \$926.65 in contributions. 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"

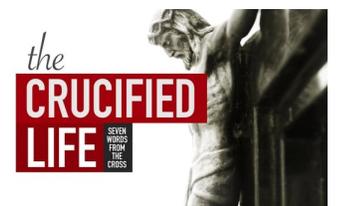
12:10PM SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

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

- ◆ **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)