



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 21, 2018

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



A LENTEN JOURNEY USING

"THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" Luke 23:46

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Mid-Week Service

March 21, 2018

**Please stand if able*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW – red book

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION - LITANY: PSALM 27

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

C: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

P: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

C: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

P: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

C: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

P: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

C: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

P: If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

C: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

P: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

C: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

All: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

*GATHERING HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

ELW #759

Verse 1 **My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

Verse 2 **May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

Verse 3 **While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

Verse 4 **When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious Father, your Son on the cross demonstrates for us what faith is, and what it means for us in our living and in our dying. Help us to surrender our lives in trust to you, and to live and die with hope and courage knowing that you are, and will always forever be with us, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23: 33, 39-49

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 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." It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW #335

- Verse 1 **Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**
- Refrain* **In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**
- Verse 2 **Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. (*Refrain*)**
- Verse 3 **Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. (*Refrain*)**
- Verse 4 **Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. (*Refrain*)**

*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

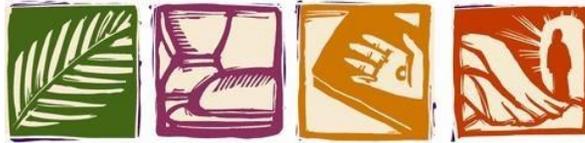
*SENDING HYMN

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

ELW #742

- Verse 1 **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God In prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**
- Verse 2 **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- Verse 3 **Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 25:	Passion Sunday (8:15am & 10:30am) Seder Meal (6pm)
March 29:	Maundy Thursday (7pm)
March 30:	Good Friday (7pm)
March 31:	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil (8pm)
April 1:	Easter Sunday (7am & 10am) Sunrise Service (7am) Congregation Breakfast (8:30am) Traditional Service (10am)

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.

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 \$1206.65 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.

40 DAYS
of Giving