

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
First Sunday in Lent – March 9, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to abandon God
for the false hopes of indulgence, arrogance and certainty.
During our Lenten journey, we recognize we too are tempted
to turn aside from seeking only God and God's ways.
As we worship, may we celebrate all the bounty of God's grace
and always return with mindfulness and gratitude to God.

Hymn 327 Sing praise to God who reigns above

- 1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory.**
- 2. The angel host, O King of kings,
your praise forever telling,
in earth and sky all living things
beneath your shadow dwelling,
adore the wisdom which could span,
and power which formed creation's plan:
to God all praise and glory.**
- 3. What God's almighty power has made
in mercy God is keeping;
by morning glow or evening shade.
nor slumbering nor sleeping.
Where'er God rules in sovereign might
there all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory.**
- 4. Then all my gladsome way along
I sing aloud your praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises:
be joyful in the Lord, my heart,**

**both soul and body bear your part:
to God all praise and glory.**

**5. All you that name Christ's holy name,
give God all praise and glory:
all who confess Christ's power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story.
Cast every idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
to God all praise and glory.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 425 We praise you, O God

- 1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**
- 2. We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.**
- 3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**Merciful God, we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
We cling to the values of a broken world rather than follow
your ways. Too often our fears and jealousies over power
and prestige set neighbour against neighbour and nation
against nation. There is little peace in our communities or
our hearts. Have mercy upon us. Forgive us.**

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*minister*)

Hymn 350 To God be the glory (original words)

**1. To God be the glory! great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his
voice;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice.
Oh come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done!**

**2. Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives!**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his
voice;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice.
Oh come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done!**

**3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his
voice;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice.
Oh come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he hath done!**

¹ Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² This I declare about the Lord:

**He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.**

⁹ If you make the Lord your refuge,
if you make the Most High your shelter,

**¹⁰ no evil will conquer you;
no plague will come near your home.**

¹¹ For he will order his angels
to protect you wherever you go.

**¹² They will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.**

¹³ You will trample upon lions and cobras;
you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

**¹⁴ The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust in my name.**

¹⁵ When they call on me, I will answer;
I will be with them in trouble.

I will rescue and honor them.

**¹⁶ I will reward them with a long life
and give them my salvation."**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 26:1–11 p. 159 pew Bible

Romans 10:8b–13 p. 272 New Testament with Psalms

Luke 4:1–13 p. 107 New Testament with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Lent. Yes, it's a good thing.

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 647 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

**1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee,**

yet possessing every blessing
if our God our guide shall be.

2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary
through the desert thou didst go.

3. Spirit of our God descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided
nothing can our peace destroy.

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

O God, as we present our gifts and offerings, help us to remember that what we share enables the Church to meet the needs of others and participate in building up Christ's kingdom. Amen.

Hymn 661 We give thee but thine own

1. We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

2. May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give.

3. To comfort and to bless,
to find a balm for woe,

**to tend the lonely in distress
is angels' work below.**

**4. The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace,
it is a Christlike thing,**

**5. and we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er for thine we do, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude