

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
First Sunday in Lent – February 22, 2026

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

O God, you are a hiding place for us;

you preserve us from trouble.

Let the faithful offer prayer and praise to God,

for in times of distress, God is with us.

The Lord will teach us the way we should go;

God's steadfast love always surrounds us.

So let us be glad in the Lord and rejoice in worship!

We will sing for joy with psalms of praise.

Hymn 17 How blest are they whose trespass

**1. How blest are they whose trespass
has freely been forgiven,
whose sins are wholly covered
before the sight of heaven,
blest to whom the Lord God
does not impute their sin,
who have a guileless spirit,
whose heart is true within.**

**2. While I kept guilty silence,
my strength was spent with grief:
your hand was heavy on me,
my soul found no relief,
but when I owned my trespass
and did not hide my sin,
then you forgave my guilt, Lord,
restored my life within.**

**3. So let the godly seek you
in times when you are near;
no whelming floods shall reach them,
or cause their hearts to fear;**

**O Lord, you are my refuge,
you are my hiding place,
and you surround me always
with songs of saving grace.**

**4. 'I graciously will teach you
the way that you should go,
and, with my eye upon you,
help you my counsel know.
Then do not be unruly
or slow to understand;
be not perverse, but willing
to heed my wise command.'**

**5. The sorrows of the wicked
increase from year to year,
but those who trust the Lord God
know love instead of fear.
Then in the Lord be joyful;
in song lift up your voice;
be glad in God, you righteous:
rejoice. O saints, rejoice!**

Prayer of Praise (*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.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

God of mercy, we come before you, bringing lives with burdens and cares, hopes and ambitions. We lay before you our grudges. We confess we are often so focused on these that we are distracted from your purpose for our lives. In these moments of silence, hear us as we acknowledge to you the things that occupy our thoughts, things that trouble us and any things of which we are ashamed.

- 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 794 Abide with me

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.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

**4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 32 p. 481 NT & Psalms

¹Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!

**²Yes, what joy for those
whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!**

³When I refused to confess my sin,
my body wasted away,
and I groaned all day long.

**⁴Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.**

Interlude

⁵Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide my guilt.
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude

**⁶Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still
time,
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.**

⁷For you are my hiding place;
you protect me from trouble.
You surround me with songs of victory. Interlude

**⁸The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for
your life.**

I will advise you and watch over you.

⁹Do not be like a senseless horse or mule
that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

**¹⁰Many sorrows come to the wicked,
but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.**

¹¹So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him!

Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 p. 2 pew Bible

Romans 5:12-19 p. 264 NT & Psalms

Matthew 4:1-11 p. 7 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **Do I have to give up something?**

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen.

Hymn 204 **Thou didst leave thy throne**

**1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
when thou camest to earth for me,
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
for thy holy nativity:**

**oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.**

**2. Even foxes found rest, and the birds had their nest
in the shade of the forest tree,
but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,
in the deserts of Galilee:**

**oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.**

**3. When thou camest, O Lord, with the living word,
'twas to set all thy people free,
but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
then we bore thee to Calvary:**

**oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
now thy cross is my only plea.**

**4. Heaven's arches shall ring and its choirs shall sing
at thy coming to victory;**

**let thy voice call me home, saying, 'Yet there is room,
there is room at my side for thee!'
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
when thou comest and callest me.**

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