

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 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

Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,
and God's truth opens our eyes.

Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ,
and God's love brings healing and hope.

Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,
and God's people are born from above.

We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.
Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.

Hymn 81 Unto the hills around

**1. Unto the hills around do I lift up
my longing eyes:
oh whence for me shall my salvation come,
from whence arise?
From God the Lord doth come my certain aid,
from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.**

**2. He will not suffer that thy foot be moved:
safe shalt thou be.
No careless slumber shall his eyelids close,
who keepeth thee.
Behold, he sleepeth not, he slumbereth ne'er,
who keepeth Israel in his holy care.**

**3. Jehovah is himself thy keeper true,
thy changeless shade;
Jehovah thy defence on thy right hand
himself hath made,
and thee no sun by day shall ever smite;
no moon shall harm thee in the silent night.**

4. From every evil shall he keep thy soul,

from every sin:

Jehovah shall preserve thy going out,
thy coming in.

Above thee watching, he whom we adore
shall keep thee henceforth, yea, forevermore.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 209 O love that wilt not let me go

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may rich er, fuller be.

2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze, its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

God of mystery and mercy, we confess that we prefer simple certainty to seeking deeper understanding. We settle for what we know, ignoring our doubts and questions. Forgive us when our faith falters because what we think no longer satisfies. Open our eyes to the truth you hold out to us in Christ. Give us courage to rethink what we have assumed about you and your love for the world.

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 297 O love that casts out fear

**1. O love that casts out fear,
O love that casts out sin,
tarry no more without,
but come and dwell within.**

**2. True sunlight of the soul,
surround us as we go;
so shall our way be safe,
our feet no straying know.**

**3. Great love of God, come in!
Wellspring of heavenly peace,
thou living water, come:
spring up and never cease.**

**4. Love of the living God,
of Father and of Son,
love of the Holy Ghost,
fill thou each needy one.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 121 p. 574 NT & Psalms

¹I look up to the mountains—
does my help come from there?

**²My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth!**

³He will not let you stumble;
the one who watches over you will not slumber.

**⁴Indeed, he who watches over Israel
never slumbers or sleeps.**

⁵The Lord himself watches over you!

The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

**⁶The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon at night.**

**⁷The Lord keeps you from all harm
and watches over your life.**

**⁸The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,
both now and forever.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 12:1-4a p. 9 pew Bible

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 p. 262 NT & Psalms

John 3:1-17 p. 162 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Nicodemus? What about him?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**Generous God, we offer our gifts to you in gratitude for
all that we have received in Christ and in creation. Bless
our gifts and our lives, so that we can share in the
building up of your kingdom in the world you love. In
Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

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!

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