

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Third Sunday in Lent – March 8, 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**

Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

**the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**

Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others discard.

**Jesus insists that God is revealed in unlikely people.**

Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman at the well who was the wrong religion, the wrong gender, and had the wrong marital status.

**We, too, are a gathering of nobodies, yet Jesus claims us as somebodies who all have a place.**

In Christ, there is neither insider nor outsider, invited nor shunned, accepted nor rejected.

**We, too, are called to see beyond outdated categories and to offer living water to the thirsty.**

It is those who have been rejected who most need to know acceptance.

**Let our gatherings be a place for those who have been told they don't belong.**

**Hymn 61 Oh come and sing unto the Lord**

**1. Oh come and sing unto the Lord;  
to God our voices raise.**

**O Rock of our salvation, hear  
our joyful noise of praise!**

**2. Before God's presence let us come  
with praise and thankful voice;  
let us sing psalms to God with grace,  
with grateful hearts rejoice.**

**3. Our God is great and reigns supreme  
above all power and might;  
God's hand still holds the depths of earth,  
the mountains' breadth and height.**

**4. The sea belongs to God alone  
who made both calm and storm,  
and from the Maker's mighty hand  
the dry land took its form.**

**5. Oh come and let us worship God  
as to our knees we fall;  
we are God's people; God is Lord,  
the Maker of us all.**

**Prayer of Praise (*minister*)**

**Hymn 394 Holy Spirit, truth divine**

**1. Holy Spirit, truth divine,  
dawn upon this soul of mine;  
Word of God, and inward light,  
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**2. Holy Spirit, love divine,  
glow within this heart of mine;  
kindle every high desire,  
perish self in thy pure fire.**

**3. Holy Spirit, power divine,  
fill and nerve this will of mine;  
by thy strength I strongly live,  
bravely serve and gladly give.**

**4. Holy Spirit, right divine,  
reign within this soul of mine;  
be my law and I shall be  
firmly bound, forever free.**

**5. Holy Spirit, peace divine,  
still this restless heart of mine;  
speak to calm this tossing sea,  
stayed in thy tranquillity.**

**6. Holy Spirit, joy divine,  
gladden now this heart of mine;  
in the desert ways I sing,  
"Spring, O well, forever spring."**

## **Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)**

**God, our Redeemer, we are not proud of all you hear in our thoughts and prayers. We complain when we want things to change but don't know what to do. We justify ourselves when you call us to change but we don't want to. We blame others when things change and upset our expectations. Forgive us, God, when we are not listening for you.**

**- 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 431 Jesus, where'er Thy people meet**

**1. Jesus, where'er thy people meet,  
there they behold thy mercy seat;  
where'er they seek thee thou art found,  
and every place is hallowed ground.**

**2. Here may we prove the power of prayer  
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,  
to teach our faint desires to rise,  
and bring all heaven before our eyes.**

**3. Lord, we are few, but thou art near,  
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear;  
oh rend the heavens, come quickly down  
and make a thousand hearts thine own.**

## **Responsive Reading Psalm 95 p. 544 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come to him with thanksgiving.**

**Let us sing psalms of praise to him.**

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord is a great God,  
a great King above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
and the mightiest mountains.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea belongs to him, for he made it.  
His hands formed the dry land, too.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down.**

**Let us kneel before the Lord our maker,**

<sup>7</sup>for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over,  
the flock under his care.

If only you would listen to his voice today!

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord says, "Don't harden your hearts as Israel did at  
Meribah,**

**as they did at Massah in the wilderness.**

<sup>9</sup>For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience,  
even though they saw everything I did.

**<sup>10</sup>For forty years I was angry with them," and I said,  
"They are a people whose hearts turn away from me.  
They refuse to do what I tell them."**

**<sup>11</sup>So in my anger I took an oath:**

**"They will never enter my place of rest."**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

## **Scripture Lessons**

Exodus 17:1-7 p. 28 pew Bible

Romans 5:1-11 p. 263 NT & Psalms

John 4:5-42 p. 163 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

## **Sermon Water**

### **Prayers of the People (*minister*)**

### **Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)**

**Gracious God, thank you for your unending grace.**

**Accept the offering we bring in response to the love  
which you have poured into our hearts. May our lives**

**bear witness to that love in all we say and do. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Hymn 330 O God, our help in ages past**

- 1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.**
- 2. Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.**
- 3. Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**
- 4. A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**
- 5. Time, like an everrolling stream,  
bears all our years away.  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**
- 6. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

### **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**