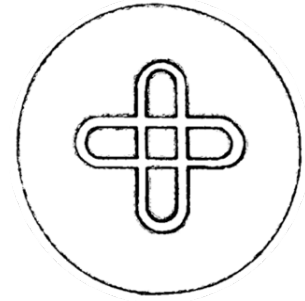


# St Mark Lutheran Church

## Service *of* Holy Communion



*Welcome to this divine service of worship!*

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

**Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.**

*The obelisk ( † ) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.*

*The double obelisk ( ‡ ) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.*

Uniting in Worship + Growing in Wisdom + Serving in Love  
*to embrace all in response to God.*

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*March 17, 2024: Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*9:00am*

**Prelude:** *Lord Jesus, Think On Me*

*arranged by J. Bert Carlson*

### Preparation for Worship

**Redeeming God, I do not know what lies ahead. I ask for strength and patience for myself, my family, and all who love and support me as we figure out what the future looks like. Gracious God, I know that you are always with me. Help me to feel your presence, especially at this time. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### †Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered the name of God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — let us speak the truth:

God of justice, **you know the guilt that I carry. You know the hurt I have caused. You know the harm I have done. You know the heaviness I hold.**

**And I know, too, what has brought judgment upon me.  
I confess my sin, and I ask you to guide my life in the direction Jesus leads me.  
I ask for this: that you forgive my sins,  
that I find forgiveness from those against whom I have sinned,  
that you help me forgive others, and that you help me forgive myself.**

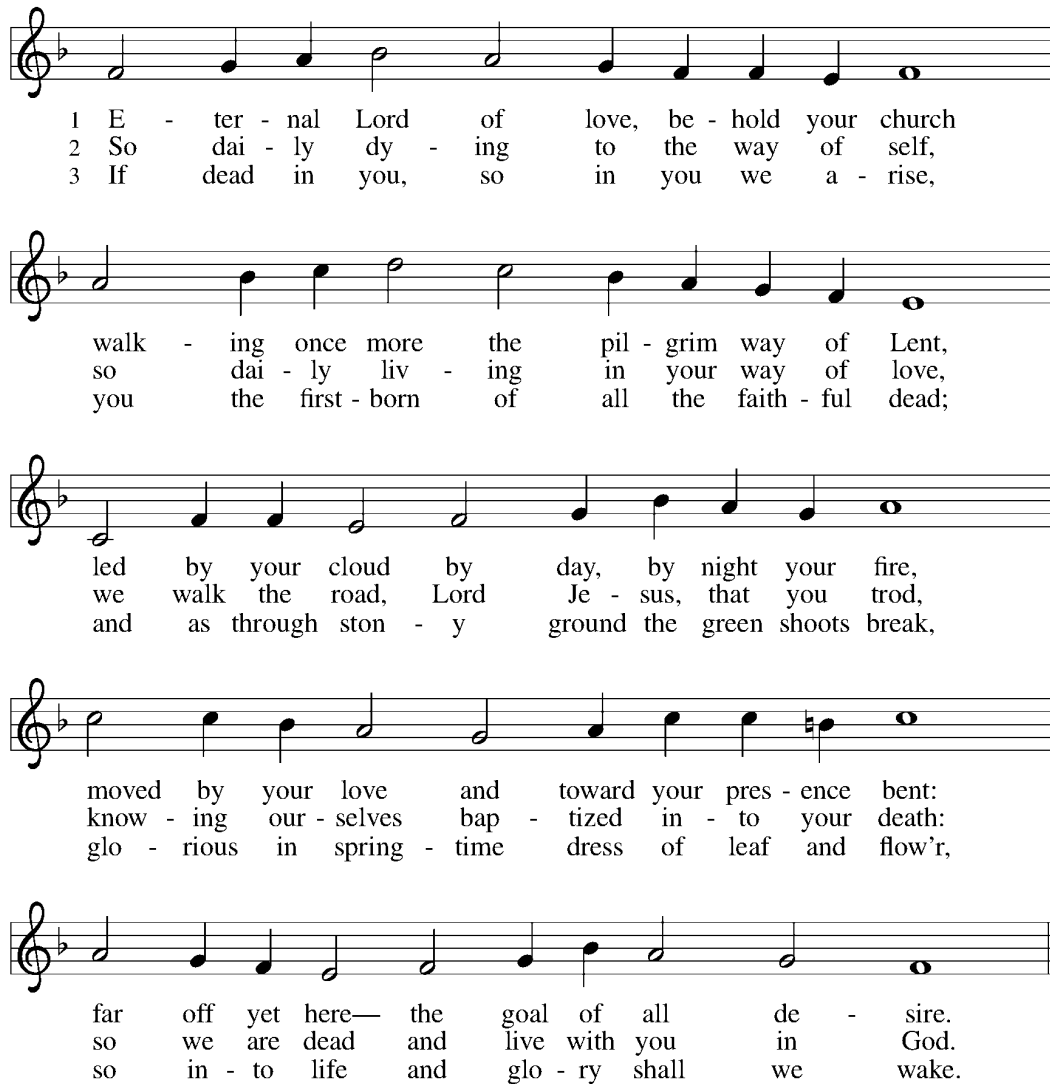
God of reconciliation, Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, to pray for them, and to do good even to those who hurt us. This is a hard teaching here, where we think of many as enemies. Show us the power of your transforming love. Prevent acts of retribution, drive out destructive anger, and hinder the spirit of revenge. Give us the courage to follow where you lead.

**Praise to you, O God, for by your mercy I am united with Christ Jesus  
and in Christ I am forgiven. May I breathe in the peace of Christ now  
and rise in new life to follow Jesus' way. Amen.**

†Hymn: *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

*Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931-2003*

*Tune: OLD 124TH, Geneva, 1551*



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

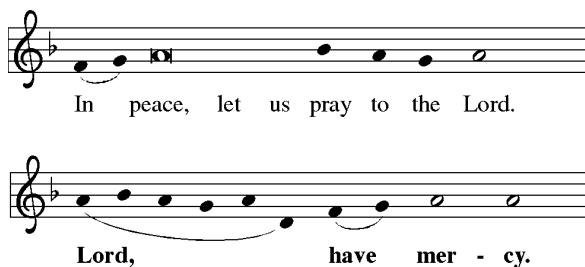
moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

†Greeting

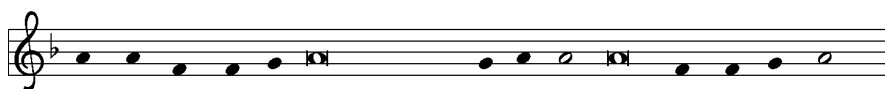
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

†Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



**First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:31-34***

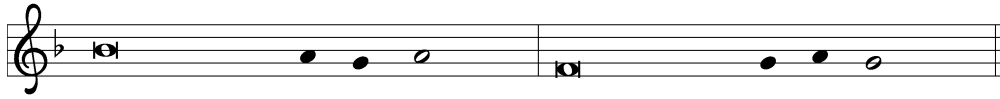
A reading from Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: *Psalms 51:1-12***



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.  
Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.  
For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.  
Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.  
Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.  
Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.  
Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.  
Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.  
Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

## Second Reading: *Hebrews 5:5-10*

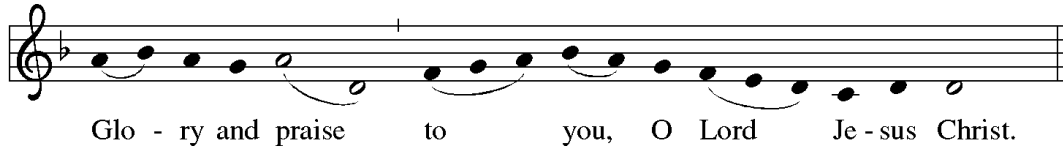
A reading from Hebrews:

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### †Gospel Acclamation



Cantor: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

†Gospel: *John 12:20-33*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Pastor Joel Neubauer*

†Hymn: *Now the Silence*

Text: Jaroslav, J. Vajda, b. 1919  
Tune: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Sung first by the choir;  
Sung a second time with the full congregation.

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed', 'Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come', 'Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing', 'Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion', 'Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing', 'Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny', and 'Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now'. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed

Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come

Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion

Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing

Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

## ‡Prayers of Intercession

*Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.*

God of a holy covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire us by writers, musicians, and artists with creative gifts to lift our praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations and peoples, you desire peace and security for all. Defend voices that challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support our advocacy for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for all lives experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Please protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us here among this congregation of St Mark. Support our ministries of prayer and presence with one another. Move us to reach out to neighbors who are either homebound or unhoused, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us across time. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

## †Peace and Offering

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!*



God of creation, **it can be hard to be grateful for meals in prison. I miss foods from my family, foods that remind me of good times, foods that delight me. Even with only bread and a cup, make me mindful of those whose tables are empty, of those who grow our food, and of the ways we depend upon the resources of the land. Amen.**

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G-clef, F-sharp major, 4/4 time. The first staff has a repeat sign. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G-clef, F-sharp major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

God, creator of communion, companion in confinement:  
you are with us as a parent to face your child's arrest,  
you are with us as a cellmate to share our chains,  
you are with us as a breath of freedom to release a breath we hold in fear.  
That you are with us here, for always being God with us, we thank you.

Just before he was arrested, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus  
took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus' freedom & confinement, life & death, resurrection & ascension,  
we await the liberation of our lives in the rising of his gracious justice & righteous peace.  
Set free your Holy Spirit on us and on this simple bread and cup,  
that we may freely embrace Jesus' body and blood in, with and under this communion.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ — incarcerated once and ever exonerated —  
you are exalted, Our Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit:  
One God, with glory and honor in your Holy Church, both now and forever.

A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## †Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy

on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

**Communion** — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

**Communion Anthem: Hear My Voice, O Lord**

*based on Psalm 27, music by J. Southwick Cool*

*Hear my voice, O Lord, hear when evil befalls. When I ask for mercy, answer my call.  
Lead me on a level path; teach me your way. Do not hide your face from me, for it is your face that I seek.  
The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is the stronghold of my life.  
The Lord is my strength, my rock and shelter,  
my God in whom I trust.*

*In the day of trouble, keep my heart from fear. When I feel forsaken, remind me, Lord, you are near.  
I will always praise you, giving thanks with a joyful song, for I have seen,  
O Lord your goodness, and I will serve you all my life long.*

**†Post Communion Blessing, Prayer & Benediction**

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**Come, O peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
and guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

God's strength now pilot you; God's might now uphold you,  
God's wisdom now guide you, God's vision now watch before you,  
God's listening now hear you, God's word now speak for you,  
God's hand now guard you, God's way now lie before you,  
God's shield now protect you, God's community now hold you safe;\*  
and good and gracious God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit —  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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\* Our benediction incorporates words adapted from a prayer attributed to the fifth-century St Patrick of Ireland.

†Hymn: *Restore in Us, O God*

*Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b.1944*  
*Tune: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b.1933*



- 1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
- 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
- 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

**Dismissal** — *from Ephesians 4:1-3*

Lead a life in balance with the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*No Postlude Lent*

This is a “No Postlude Lent” for us at St Mark, no final “alleluia.”

It can be said that postludes are signals that the worship service is over and chatting can commence. If chatting, the postlude can be a nuisance. Another perspective is that a postlude can lift us up and send us forth with a renewed strength to carry into the world and in listening for this, chatting can be a nuisance.

\*It can also be said that postludes are exclamations of “Alleluia!” When worship has moved us through prayer, supplication and communion, the final punctuation could be the final music of the worship hour, the postlude — \*perhaps even serving as an “*expression of the soul’s exultation.*”

During Lent, our season of fasting from an organ postlude can be a time to ponder how we spend these few moments to conclude our personal worship and extend our service to the world for the sake of good news in Christ.

\*from *In Defense of the Organ Postlude*, a blog by Peter Kwasniewsky

## A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Christ's body and blood; all people are welcomed to receive God's blessing in the love and life of Jesus for you today and always.*

*We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands with rubbing alcohol, the pastor will dip the host into the cup and offer the bread and wine together; to receive the host without wine, please inform the pastor with words or by placing a hand on your chest. Truly Christ is fully present in each element separately. Christ is for you.*

*Communicants will come forward to the feast in continuous procession.*

## PJ's reflection on the Gospel

It's good that we remember there were Greeks  
who went to worship with believers in  
a God who wasn't theirs: their worship speaks  
of hope that "chosen people" holds within  
its smallness something large enough to draw  
in larger ways a larger whole—the whole  
of your humanity, a warmth to thaw  
if any deathly cold would cast a soul  
away for holding faith while not conformed  
to cultures and conditions set by folk  
like we are, folk who think religion's normed  
by our theologies. But heaven spoke  
in thunder of wide glory breaking new  
and Jesus claimed God's rising up for you.

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