

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: www.stmarksharrisburg.org

E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Wednesday Lenten Service

March 23, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

From the time of the Apostles the Church has united together in worship of our Triune God through a service centered on two parts, mirroring the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus where the resurrected Jesus made Himself known through the Word of God and the breaking of bread (Luke 24:13-31). The first section, the Service of the Word, grew out of the worship practices of first century Jewish synagogues, which focused upon the reading and preaching of particular Scriptural texts. The second portion, the Service of the Sacrament, developed around the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which Jesus bestowed upon His Church prior to His crucifixion. Through the services of Word and Sacrament our Triune God continues to make Himself manifest in our lives and worship. Our Lord continues to use the liturgy to convert and strengthen His people, drawing us together as the Body of Christ. Today we celebrate four aspects of our worship, Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE— *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

~J.S. Bach

Stand **Hymn #337** *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Sung by Congregation with Mask Optional!

C Vs 1 **Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?**

Vs 2 **Was it for sins that I had done
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
and love beyond degree!**

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)**

We acknowledge our sins beginning with the words of 1 John 1:8-9. The pastor then forgives all repentant sinners in God's stead and by His command (John 20:23).

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand **GREETING**

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

C And also with you

KYRIE (Spoken)

“Lord, have mercy” is a translation of the Greek Kyrie eleison (pronounced Kee-ree-yay e-lay-son). Our crying out for mercy upon entering the presence of the living God indicates we are aware of our own unrighteousness, and of the righteousness that He freely gives us. We use the same words as the ten lepers, “Jesus, have mercy on us” (Luke 17:13).

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen, amen.

THE SALUTATION

More than a simple greeting, this shows the special relationship between pastor and congregation in words drawn from [Philemon 25](#) and [Gal. 6:18](#).

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

In the early church this was a prayer that “collected” the prayers of the people. Since the Middle Ages it has been directed to the needs of all in a particular season or festival. This is a prayer of the whole church in which the Pastor’s voice, alone, signifies the unity of the faithful.

A Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 20:1-3, 13-14

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

MEDITATION

Second Lesson: Exodus 20:18-21

¹⁸When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." ²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." ²¹Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand **Hymn #770** *Give Me Jesus*

Sung by Congregation with Mask Optional!

C Vs 1 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,

give me Jesus.

Refrain Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.

Vs 2 And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. **Refrain**

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Jesus Christ our Lord

C **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contact” sharing of the Peace till further notice.**

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

PREFACE

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.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God's love is poured out in Christ for you.
Open yourselves to receive it.

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray

A We thank you, living God,
for the body and blood of your Son,
which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.
As Christ has loved us in this feast,
so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.
In Jesus' name we pray
C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,

speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
+ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

C Amen

Stand **Hymn #772** *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*
Sung by Congregation with Mask Optional!

C Vs 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!

Vs 2 Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude—*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* ~ Dorsey

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23172. New
Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.