

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: [www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

E-mail: [stmarkslutheran@verizon.net](mailto:stmarkslutheran@verizon.net)

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-695-7525



Ash Wednesday

March 2, 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.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

## **GATHERING**

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*~R. Lau*

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

*The assembly is seated. The presiding minister invites the assembly into the discipline of Lent.*

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, to live in harmony with God, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent — self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**HYMN #592** *Just As I Am*

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

**C VS 1**    **Just as I am, without one plea,**  
              **but that thy blood was shed for me,**  
              **and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,**  
              **O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**VS 3**        **Just as I am, thou wilt receive,**  
              **wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;**  
              **because thy promise I believe,**  
              **O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

C **forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence*

P **We were silent when we should have said something.**

*Silence*

C **We acted when we knew better.**

*Silence*

C **We were still when we know we should have moved.**

*Silence*

**C** For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**P** People of God, look to the + Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**C** **Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. The presiding minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

**P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

**P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**C** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**C** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

**P** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Stand GREETING**

**P** The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**      **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P**      Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

**Sit FIRST READING - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

*Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

    Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near —

    a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

    Like blackness spread upon the mountains

    a great and powerful army comes;

    their like has never been from of old,

    nor will be again after them

    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,

    return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?  
Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17**

**READ IN UNISON**

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 ever 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 purer 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 spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as

sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

P The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

Stand Lenten Verse

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P        The gospel of the Lord.

C        **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN #188** *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

**C   Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
         and renew a right spirit within me.  
         Cast me not away from your presence,  
         and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
         Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
         and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## Stand **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P        Merciful God

C        **Receive our prayer.**

P        Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C        **Amen.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Merciful God,

C receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

P It is indeed right..

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Here is food and drink for the journey.

Take and be filled.

### **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.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **Stand COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

P Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

P You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
+ bless you this day and always.

C **Amen.**

Hymn #801 *Change My Heart, O God*  
Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

C **Refrain Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**

**You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray. Refrain**

### DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way

C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Lord Take my Hand and Lead Me ~F. Silcher*

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.

### ALTAR CARE:

Laurie Womer—Noon  
Marian Person—6:30 pm

### Lectors:

Laurie Womer—Noon  
Susan Shultz— 6:30 pm