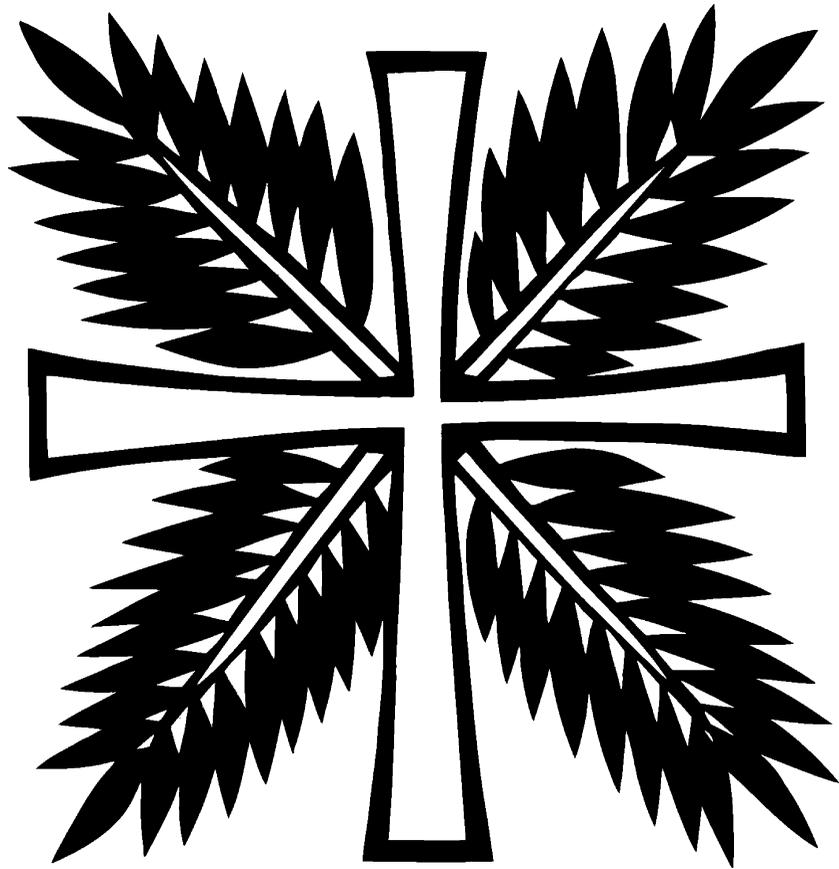


Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428

stmarksconshy.org



Sunday of the Passion

April 9th, 2017

Assisting with Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	<i>The Rev. Bryan Penman</i>
Director of Music Ministries	<i>Emily Ballentine Erb</i>
Pastoral Intern	<i>Vicar Lenny Duncan</i>
Assisting Minister	<i>Kim Kriebel</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Note: No Communion</i>
Reader	
Nursery	<i>LJ Kriebel</i>
Acolyte	<i>Theodora Morley</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Pam Keebler</i>
Ushers	<i>Terry Spence & Joanne Copestick</i>
Counters	<i>Susan Jacovino & Rhea Moore</i>
Offering Recorder	<i>Nate Ramsden</i>
Fellowship Hour	<i>Portzger Family</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Given by Luella Claffey, In Memory of her husband, Tom</i>
Palms	<i>Given by Don & Jeanette Nazaryk to the glory of God for blessings received</i>

The Rev. Bryan Penman, Pastor
pastor@stmarksconshy.org | 540.287.3663

Dr. Joseph Jacovino, Council President
jjacovino@comcast.net

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry St, Conshohocken, PA 19428
Church Office 610-828-0581, Fax 610-828-6659

Email: info@stmarksconshy.org

www.stmarksconshy.org

Welcome to St. Mark's, we are so glad you are with us today!

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you have a place here. ***This is Christ's Church. There is a place for you here.*** We are a church that shares a living and daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person - questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Children are always welcome to participate in worship. We invite all children to try to be in worship through the children's sermon (about 20 minutes) and then invite the children, if they want, to head to the nursery, but we love to have the children with us through the whole worship service! To help our youngest worshipers, "Little Lutheran Activity Bags" are located in the rear of the sanctuary which have crayons and worship appropriate coloring pages. We offer a children's bulletin that has puzzles and activities for little worshipers to work on during the service, and we offer a "Soft Space" for infants and toddlers to spread out a bit in during worship. Worshiping with children is important to us, and so we hope you find these things helpful so that you may worship together as a family.

Restrooms are located through the back left – exit the sanctuary, go up the stairs, through the first room to the end of the hallway. If you need assistance, please see the attendants (ushers) at the back of the sanctuary.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are welcome to be used to Post, Tweet and Instagram the Good News you hear today, but we kindly ask you to turn the sound off on them so that they do not cause a distraction to other worshipers.

Our team of ushers is available throughout the service to be of any assistance you might need. Assistive Listening devices are available. Please see an usher.

Are you new or visiting St. Mark's? If you would like to receive more information about St. Mark's, we have several methods where you can leave your information with us. At the entry ways to the sanctuary, you will find our guest books in which you can leave your name and contact information, or in the pews we have blue cards that you can fill and place in the offering plate, or if you like, you can sign our electronic guest book. We'd be delighted to keep you informed about the many events and opportunities here at St. Mark's and hope you will join us again. For the electronic book, open your mobile device to the bar code scanner and take a picture of this square QR code; it will take you to our electronic guest book.



Instructions

Leader says

We all say together

+Blessings of the Palms+

We celebrate Jesus's entry into Jerusalem

Introduction *Today we will we celebrate the Palm/Passion Sunday with the procession and processional readings, the blessings of the palms, and then we will enter the Way of the Cross liturgy. The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus, with strong roots in the African American church.*

Prelude *Herzlich tut mich verlangen Op. 122 No. 10* Johannes Brahms

Acclamation *The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):*
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Gospel *An assisting minister or the presiding minister reads the processional gospel.*
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And they will be sent immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

**Blessing of
Palms**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Procession

The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

Let us go forth in peace,

in the name of Christ. Amen.

The assembly is invited to join the procession of the Palms as we journey through the sanctuary singing the hymn on the next page.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

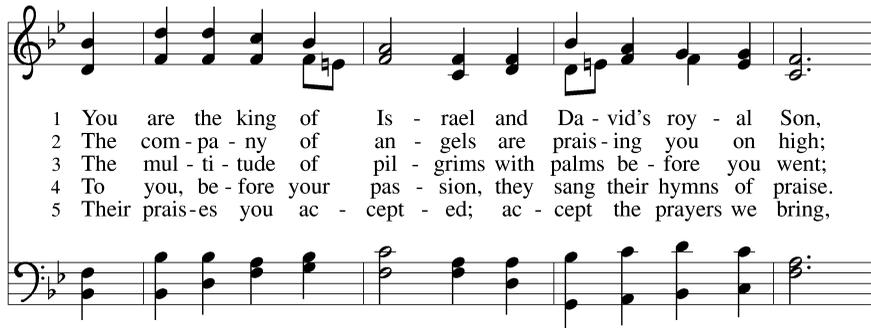
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

The Way of the Cross

We contemplate Christ's Passion through the Stations of the Cross

Introduction

The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus. The Way of the Cross resonates with several aspects of African and African American Christian traditions: an association with struggle and suffering; the concepts of pilgrimage and marching for justice; and a hymnic tradition that proclaims the saving blood and cross of Christ.

Hymn of Praise

MSB1 S429

Jesus Christ Is Lord

1 Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited.

Leader Assembly

Je - sus Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord!

2 But emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

Leader Assembly

Je - sus Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord!

3 And, being found in human form, he humbled himself,
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Leader Assembly

Je - sus Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord!

4 Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name,

Leader Assembly

Je - sus Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord!

5 So that at the name of Jesus ev'ry knee should bend,
in heav'n, on earth, and under the earth,
and ev'ry tongue confess to the glory of God the Father:

Leader Assembly

Je - sus Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord!

Text: Philippians 2:5–11
Music: Howard Hughes, S.M.

First Station

Jesus is condemned to death.

The presiding minister leads us into the first reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

God did not spare his own Son,
but delivered him up for us all.

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended

Hymn
HFW 17
v. 1-2



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed that mor - tal
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? A - las, my



judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, has un - done you. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,



by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

**Second
Station**

Jesus

*Takes up
his Cross*

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

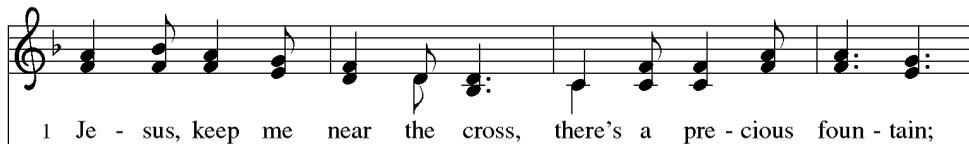
Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called 'The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing.

The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:

for the transgression of my people was he stricken

Hymn
TFF 73
v.1 & 3

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;

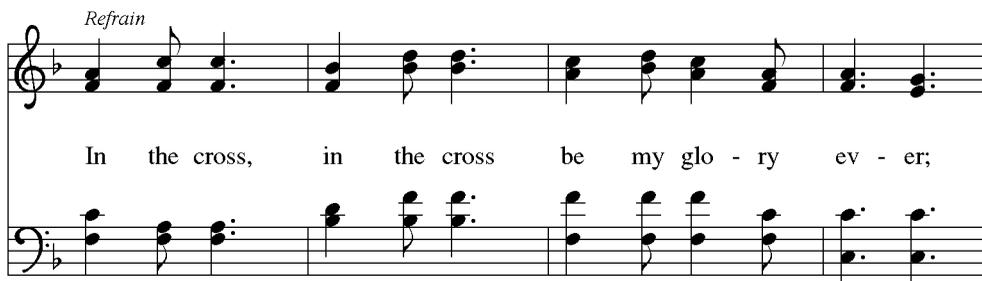
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;



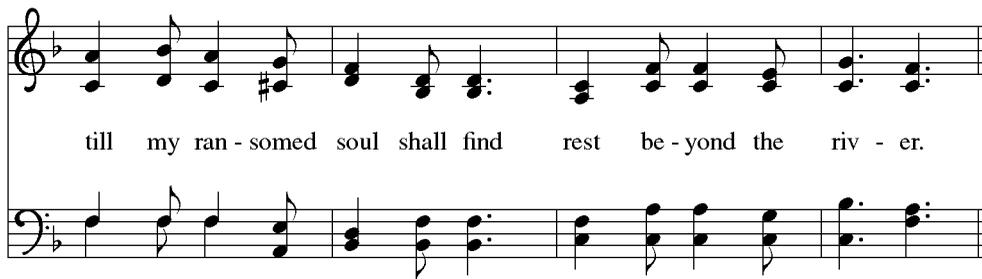
free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.

help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Third Station

*The cross is
laid on
Simon of
Cyrene*

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
cannot be my disciple.

Hymn
HFW 17
v.3-4

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended



3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of-fered; the slave has
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, your mor - tal
sin - ned, and the Son has suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion; your death of an - guish
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Fourth Station

*Jesus meets
the woman
of
Jerusalem*

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Hymn
TFF 66

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

**Fifth
Station**

*Jesus is
stripped of
his
garments*

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

They gave me gall to eat,

and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Hymn

There is a Green Hill Far Away
Children's Ensemble

Arr. Albert L Peace

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy and hear us

**Sixth
Station**

*Jesus is
nailed to
the cross*

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

They pierce my hands and my feet;

they stare and gloat over me.

Video

“All the Way Down”

Danielle Shroyer’s

Danielle Shroyer is the pastoral theologian in residence at Journey Church in Dallas and the former senior pastor of that church. She holds an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary and is the author of The Boundary-Breaking God, a founder of the emerging church movement, and a sought-after speaker.

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

Amen

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy and hear us.

Seventh Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold your mother.” And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Christ for us became obedient unto death,

even death on a cross.

Hymn

Calvary

African American Spiritual

Hannah Knauss

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

Amen

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

have mercy and hear us.

**Eighth
Station**

The presiding minister leads us into the next reading

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

You will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see corruption.

Hymn
HFW
17 v5

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended

5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay you, I do a -
dore you, and will ev - er pray you; think on your pit - y
and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

The Assisting Minister leads us in prayer

Let us pray.

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen

Silence for meditation at the end the presiding minister leads

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.

Conclusion

Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.

Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

Blessed savior at this hour you hung upon the cross, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

+ Sending +

The Spirit sends us into the world to serve

Offering

*We will sing the
hymn on the
next page as the
offertory*

An offering is gathered to support the mission of the church. Funds gathered today will help sustain our ministry efforts at St. Mark's, support the wider national church and help those in need.

Special Collection Envelope – Delaware River Keeper

Over 17 million people rely on the Delaware River System for drinking water including communities in New York, Philadelphia and across South Jersey. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network champions the rights of our communities to a Delaware River and tributary streams that are free-flowing, clean and healthy. Through their network of volunteers they are able to keep an eye on the river's overall health and through their advocacy work they insure that the river is protected from business and governmental policies that might not keep the river as healthy as it could be. This month we will take up a special collection to support their work to keep this vital ecosystem in our area healthy and part of the "good" creation God intends!

Offertory

TFF 81

Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual
Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

At the conclusion of the hymn and collection of the offerings, the presiding minister will lead us in prayer

Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Dismissal

There is no celebration of eucharist today. If today's passion service left you with a desire to experience more and celebrate a deeper meaning of our sacred story in the sacraments, we invite you to join us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and on Easter Morning as we celebrate the great Three Days and mark Christ's passage from death to resurrection.

**Sharing
the peace**

Let us go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

We share a sign of peace as we are sent on our way.

A special thank you to our readers today

Stephanie Conklin

Joe Jacovino

Sheldon Erb

Brooke Kenna

Pam Keebler

Matt Hoffman

Lauren Parkin

Dona Kobi

Faith Formation Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can develop your faith life, learn about God and develop as disciples

Adult Faith Formation

Adult faith formation meets *after worship during fellowship hour*. Grab a snack and join us for discussion of the lectionary lesson of the day and share your insight and thoughts of what we heard in worship. Also once a month, we are working on having a theme session where we will have guests come in to discuss some of the programs within the ELCA such as the refugee program; adoption; human sexuality and the church. Hope to see you in Faith Formation!

Pastor's Bible Study

There will be NO Pastor's Bible Study this week. Instead we will be attending the Chrisom Mass being held at St. Peter's Lafayette Hill. The Chrisom Mass is the blessing of sacred oil used in healing, baptism and confirmation throughout the church. Bishop Claire Burkat will be preaching and presiding. The service begins at 10am and all are welcome to join us in lieu of Bible Study during Holy Week.

Tweener's Bible Study Resumes – Tuesday April 18th @ 7pm

Our Tuesday evening bible study group called the "Tweener's" will start up again on April 18th for a series exploring Wm. Paul Young's newest book "Lies we believe about God." Young is the bestselling author of "The Shack" which shook up our notions of our expectations of God and was made into a movie this year out in theaters now. In his latest book Young invites a compelling, conversational exploration of the wrongheaded ideas we sometimes have and share about God.

Wm. Paul Young has been called a heretic for the ways he vividly portrays God's love through his novels. Here he shares 33 commonly uttered and sometimes seemingly innocuous things we say about God. Paul exposes these as lies that keep us from having full, loving relationships with our creator.

With personal anecdotes, and sharing the compassion felt from the "Papa" portrayed in The Shack- Paul encourages listeners to think anew about important issues including sin, religion, hell, politics, identity, creation, and human rights and helps us discover God's deep and abiding love.

We will meet to outline the study and future dates for the bible study on Tuesday April 18th at 7pm.

Faithful Parenting Class – Wednesday April 19th

Our newest faith formation offering continues to grow to equip parents with tools and resources to help continue the work of faith formation at home! Feel free to join us at our next session as we are exploring the book “Holding Your Family Together: 5 simple steps to help bring your family closer to God and each other by Dr. Rich Melheim. Our next meeting date is scheduled for April 19th @ 7pm here at the church.

Worship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about worship opportunities here at St. Mark's

Join us for Holy Week

The drama just starts today – the story unfolds throughout the week!

Maundy Thursday – Worship @ 6pm in the Auditorium. We worship in the manner of the evening around dinner together as we celebrate the night Jesus gathered with his disciples, the night he was betrayed when he took bread and broke it with them. Join us as we break bread together and discover the kind of servant love Jesus showed to even those who would come to betray him.

Good Friday – Worship @ 7pm in the Sanctuary. We gather at the foot of the cross to remember the life giving passion of Christ. We give thanks for the horror and the scandal that is the cross and remember that even Jesus went down to the depths of death so that even the sting of death is something that cannot defeat our God. It is finished...our redemption begins.

Easter Morning – Worship @ 9:30am. Join us for a festival celebration of the Eucharist – Christ is Risen, He has Risen indeed. Not even the grave can conquer our God, for he is not here, he lives and goes ahead of us to Galilee. Special Music and Special musicians will add to our joyous Alleluias! Make your brunch more meaningful this year and join us for a bit of Good News to share!

Children in Worship

It has come to pastor's attention that the nursery has had quite an age range in kids from infants to elementary aged children. This wide age range makes a safety issue for those in the nursery. So going forward we are going to limit the ages of the nursery to those children 5 and under. We know that this may cause a change for some families who worship, but please know we are committed to helping you worship as a family in the sanctuary. At the same time we are also going to be implanting the policy that once a child is in the nursery they stay in the nursery until a parent comes to pick them up. Entering and exiting the nursery unsupervised is also a safety concern for our children. I hope that these new policies are ones that we can live into together for the safety of our community. We are a growing

congregation and as we grow we may need to change and shift the way we do ministry together. I hope that you all will understand. +Pastor.

Looking for Worship Assistants

The worship and music team is looking to bolster some of the worship assistant teams. We are currently looking for some more folks to volunteer to serve as Ushers, Altar Guild and Counters on Sunday mornings.

Ushering involves making sure that the sanctuary is open in the morning, assisting folks as they arrive for worship, helping to guide members and visitors through communion, collecting the offering, assist with needs during the worship service, and making sure the sanctuary is closed up following worship.

Service Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways you can do God's work with our hands

God's Work. Our Hands. – Monthly focus on Creation Care

This month we focus on God's work to heal creation through our hands. It's no secret that our planet is groaning from the pains of human's over consumption of non-renewable resources. Our calling as Christians is to work towards the story of creation depicted in the book of Genesis – where everything lives in harmony with one another. This month through the pastor's email and special focus on the work of the Delaware River Keepers we will support ways that we too, can work to live as better stewards of our environment.

Spring Cleaning Day – Saturday April 29th

We invite folks to save the date and sign up to volunteer a few hours on Saturday April 29th to help us do a little Spring Cleaning around the church. Our primary focus area will be doing some seasonal cleaning in the sanctuary and may spread to other parts of the church. We will be at the church from 10am – 6pm with lunch and childcare provided for those who volunteer time. Work to be done will be organizing, dusting, polishing items and possibly some light scrubbing. Sign up sheet will be in the McCarney Room so we can prepare projects for the day. You don't have to come for the whole day, but a few hours would be really helpful!

Special Collection Envelope – Delaware River Keeper

Over 17 million people rely on the Delaware River System for drinking water including communities in New York, Philadelphia and across South Jersey. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network champions the rights of our communities to a Delaware River and tributary streams that are free-flowing, clean and healthy. Through their network of volunteers they are able to keep an eye on the river's overall health and through their advocacy work they insure that the river is protected from business and governmental policies that might not keep the river as healthy as it could be. This month we will take up a special collection to

support their work to keep this vital ecosystem in our area healthy and part of the “good” creation God intends!

Collection Items for local food bank

We support the work of feeding those in need in our community by collecting weekly items for our local food bank run by our friends over at Colonial Neighborhood Council. The food pantry is always in need of paper products (paper towels, toilet paper and toiletry items) and shelf stable meals like Chef Boyardee and boxes of Cereal. Baskets are located at the rear of the sanctuary to collect items that will be taken over each week to the food bank.

Evangelism / Fellowship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways that you can help spread the “Good News”

Easter Egg Industry is a wrap!

Thank you to all those who helped make the 99th Year of Easter Egg Industry such a wonderful success. There will be a “Thank You” banquet on Wednesday April 26th @ 6pm. It’s free for all those who helped with egg production this year, but we are asking for an RSVP so we can give a head count to the caterer.

Nursery School Task Force

St. Mark’s is beginning the process to explore opening a nursery school. The task force is in the initial stages of gathering to determine the feasibility of such an undertaking. If you are interested in serving on this team to explore options for us, please contact Luciano Patruno (lpatruno@chartwelllaw.com) to be connected to their meeting dates. We are still in the very beginning stages of this discernment process, so look for more information about the project in the coming months and year.

Easter Egg Industry Banquet-

Wednesday April 26th at 6pm the Easter Egg industry is having a “thank you” banquet for the people of St. Mark’s. Therefore, if you helped at all please show up and enjoy a well deserved thank you and a great meal. Early indications are that this was a great year for this important ministry of St. Mark’s. So please come out and celebrate the 99th year of Easter Eggs.

This Week @ St. Mark's:

<i>Monday</i> 2pm-8pm Office Hours		6am - Meals on Wheels 7pm – Boy Scouts
<i>Tuesday</i> 10am-2pm Office Hours	10:30am – Pastor's Bible Study	6am – Meals on Wheels 7pm – Cub Scouts
<i>Wednesday</i> Office Closed		6am – Meals on Wheels
<i>Thursday</i>	6pm – Dinner Church/ Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm – Adult Choir 7:45pm-Bell Choir	6am – Meals on Wheels
<i>Friday</i>	Good Friday 7pm	6am – Meals on Wheels 6:30pm – AA / Al-Anon
<i>Saturday</i>		7pm – AA Group
<i>Sunday</i> The Resurrection of our Lord	9:30am – Worship Service	7pm – Venture Crew

Assisting with Worship Next Sunday:

Assisting Minister	Joe Jacovino
Communion	LJ Kriebel & Sheldon Erb
Assistant	
Reader	Joe Ruggiero
Nursery	Jenna Whitten-Duncan
Acolyte	Gavin Kriebel
Altar Guild	Joe & Susan Dryburgh
Ushers	George Pokalo & Jim Orman
Counters	Joan Holohan & Pam Keebler
Offering Recorder	Jeanette Nazaryk
Fellowship Hour	None

Readings for next week:

Acts 10:34-43

God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in
it. (Ps. 118:24)

Colossians 3:1-4

Raised with Christ to seek the higher things

Matthew 28:1-10

Proclaim the resurrection