

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428
stmarksconshy.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent *March 22, 2020*

- *To Join our virtual Worship Space click on this link:*
<https://zoom.us/j/838105415>
- *Using the Zoom Controls, you can turn on and off your video and mute and unmute your microphone. For most of the worship service the presiding minister will keep the assembly on mute so that you can follow along.*
- *During worship we will celebrate communion, so if you wish to participate with us, we invite you to grab some bread, and some wine or grape juice so that when we get to the MEAL, we can celebrate together.*
- *You are invited to speak the assembly responses and sing, but we ask that you stay on mute so that all may participate together.*

Welcome to St. Mark's! **We're 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.

We gather in community. Despite the mandate to "physical distance" we gather in community across virtual means. We welcome those who may be joining us from afar! If you would like to be added to our mailing list, leave your address in the Chat box on Zoom. We are so glad that you have joined us today!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Various artists

Introduction to Virtual Worship

The Presiding Minister introduces us to our virtual worship space

Invocation

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have lost the vision of your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new a new vision and right spirits,
that we may see what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God see you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

Amen

Healer of Boundless Compassion



Heal-er of bound-less com - pas - sion, peace for our
 suf - f'ring hearts: a - noint us with health, em - brace us with
 strength, and bring us to full - ness of life.

Text: *Life Passages*, Renewing Worship 4
 Music: Russell Schutz-Widmar, b. 1944
 Text © 2002 and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By
 your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of
 our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign
 with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

The First Reading is from the 16th chapter of First Samuel:

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse,

“The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²Jesse sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalmody

Psalm 23

¹The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. R**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

The Second Reading is from the 5th chapter of Ephesians:

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson:

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When Jesus had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the

pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans; who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a

sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this person, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but does listen to anyone who is devout and obeys God’s will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of someone born blind.³³ If this person were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son-of-Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and he is the one speaking with you.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Jesus.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near Jesus heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

Children’s Sermon

A special message for our young disciples, we invite them to come to the screen so that they can see each other.

Sermon

The Rev. Bryan Penman

Hymn of the Day

ELW 768

Lead Me, Guide Me

Apostles Creed

Together with the whole church let us confess our faith with the words of the 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.**

Prayers of the People

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence is kept.*

Each petition ends:

Hear us, O God / **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers are concluded:

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our

prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those who have gathered together or with others on the screen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Announcements

Announcements are made on behalf of the community

Offering

An offering is gathered to support the mission of the church. During this time of “physical distancing” contributing via electronic funds is a way to continue to support the ministry of St. Mark’s. At this time contribution towards “Current Ministry funds” are most needed. To contribute electronically, download our “Give+” giving app on your phone, available in the Apple Store and Google Play take a picture of the QR code with your phone to be directed to the download page.



Offering Prayer

Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to see and give witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know and see your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

Instructions for the Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Here at St. Mark's we invite all people to the Lord's Table no matter where you are on your faith journey. This is Christ present for you – freely offered in bread and wine – all are welcome to commune.

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

Open your eyes and yourselves to receive it.

Distribution of Communion

Today we will receive along with the presiding minister, or invite those who have gathered together to commune one another by distributing the elements or offering a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond -- Amen.

Communion Blessing

The assembly receives the blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

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. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
 Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the Poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Ebenezer

setting by Edwin Childs

Leading us in Worship

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Bryan Penman

Dir. of Music Ministry

Emily Ballentine Erb

Digital Sacristan

Breanna Myers

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026440. Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense Annual License A-722951. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. 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.

Worship Ministry:

Ways we gather in praise of God

Easter Flowers

At this point we will be putting our Easter Flowers on hold, while it is still our hope to be back in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday, we will not have time to have businesses open with enough time to secure flowers this year.

Dinner Church on Thursday at 6:30pm

Dinner Church has shifted given the time of “physical distancing” to a virtual check in and time of evening prayer on Thursdays at 6:30pm.

Holy Week Schedule

If we are given permission to assemble in public spaces, our Holy Week Schedule will continue as follows, however if we are not allowed to assemble in public, this schedule may be amended.

Join us as we tell the story of Christ’s passage from life, to death and resurrection dawn:

- **Palm Sunday, April 5th** with worship at 9:30am

- **Maundy Thursday, April 9th** – Potluck dinner at 6 pm and worship in the sanctuary at 7 pm
- **Good Friday evening, April 10th** with worship at 7 pm
- **Easter Sunday, April 12st**, with worship at 9:30am

Faith Formation Ministry:

Ways you can deepen your faith life

Faith Formation Classes

We will be working to email out resources to our faith formation parents this week to hold home based faith formation lessons this week, so be on the lookout!

Faith Formation Project

Our children in Faith Formation are collecting money during Lent in small boxes to be distributed at the Overbrook School for the Blind.

diakonia™ classes resume Saturday, March 21@10am

Classes will resume on Sat., March 21st at 10am. This is a two-year adult theological education and discipleship program covering a range of topics from the Bible, Practical Ministries, Church History and Christian Teachings. Participants can sign on for the entire year or take the courses individually as their schedules allow! Each course is 5 weeks long. Next up is: Christian Ethics – Various Speakers

Fellowship & Evangelism Ministry:

Ways you can share your faith with others

Reconciled in Christ Forum postponed

Our congregation is in the process of drafting a "Welcome Statement" so that our congregation can apply for "Reconciling in Christ" designation with Reconciling Works. The "Reconciling in Christ" is a designation for congregations that have made a public statement of welcome for LGBTQIA+ individuals. We are working to take it a step further by publicly and officially make known the fact that "no matter where you are on your faith journey you are welcome here." As we prepare this statement, a few listening sessions have been scheduled for the congregation to ask questions and have questions answered.

Pastor will also be using this time to answer some of the questions submitted anonymously to the task force members. Should you have additional questions to ask or submit, we welcome them!

At this point we will work to reschedule these sessions once worship has resumed a normal schedule.

Easter Egg Industry Pick Ups

We will be at the church Monday and Wednesday for Easter Egg order pickup only. If you have orders that need to be picked up please make sure to swing by and grab your orders.

Easter Egg Order Pick Up Times:

Monday and Wednesday Evenings 6pm – 8pm

Friday Mornings 9am – 11am

Service Ministry:

Ways you can do God's work with your hands

Lenten Devotion

“20-20 Vision: Seeing the Cross Anew” a series of Lenten devotions written by St. Mark’s Stewardship Team will be available in printed copies next week. Each week, a daily devotion will be sent out as well to reflect on the gospel text from the week.

Food Collection Items Needed

Given the unknown nature of this time of “physical distancing” the schools are closed and lots of families in our area that depend on school meals have extra needs – kid friendly snacks are greatly appreciated. Also in urgent need of Chef Boyardee, fruit and, as always, toilet paper. ***To make a donation – you can leave items in our Delivery Room located on Harry Street at the 508 sign. That door is always unlocked and you may leave your items in there and Pastor will work to get those items down to CNC during the week.***

March Special Envelope Collection: Lutheran Settlement House

The Lutheran Settlement House is a non-profit, community based social service organization that serves over 14,000 women, men, and children each year through four program areas: Adult Education and Employment, Domestic Violence, Senior Services, and Homeless Services.

Established in 1902, Lutheran Settlement House (LSH) is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to serving vulnerable children, adults, and families living in Philadelphia. Over the past century, the programs and services offered by LSH have changed in response to the evolving needs of the community. However, the core mission of Lutheran Settlement House —"to empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through an integrated program of social, educational, and advocacy services"— has remained constant.

For more information and or to volunteer opportunities, visit us them on LSH website at: <http://www.lutheransettlement.org> or on facebook: