

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428
stmarksconshy.org

The First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021

- *To Join our virtual worship space click on this link:*
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85054242582?pwd=N1ZPb3FGa0xlWlZjTG1ZV0lNcW5LUT09>
 - *Meeting ID: 850 5424 2582*
 - *Password: saintmarks*
- *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 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

Monastic Meditation

by a Trappistine nun

Introduction to Virtual Worship

The Presiding Minister introduces us to our virtual worship space

Confession and Forgiveness

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,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Again and again, God meets us where we are.
God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand
and easy for us to forget. Therefore, in confession we remember
together that we are not alone.
And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that
holy reminder.

God who meets us where we are—
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.
You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."
We know that you are with us too—
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.
Instead of coming to you with our hurt,



church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
ar - rows they are hurl - ing, you can pre - serve us.
hell it - self ap - palls us, grant us your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, peace in your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus A. von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.
Music: ISTE CONFESSOR, Poitiers *Antiphoner*, 1746

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

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

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

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

The First Reading is from the 9th chapter of Genesis:

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after

you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my
salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.

**¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of First Peter:

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was

baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the dominion of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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The 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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends:

Let us pray,

Have mercy, O God.

The prayers are concluded:

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus 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, contributions 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

Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Words of Institution

ELW p. 206

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.

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

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

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world

Blessing

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen.**

Praise and Thanks and Adoration



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
 2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing, com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ers all might live.
 through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
 Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!
 in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

The assisting minister sends us forth

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Caithness/O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig

setting by Mark Sedio

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Leading us in Worship

Presiding Minister
Dir. of Music Ministry
Digital Sacristan
Altar Guild
Assisting Minister
Reader
Counter:

The Rev. Bryan Penman
Emily Ballentine Erb
Bre Myers
Sheldon Erb
Pam Keebler
Karen Hanna
Joanne Copestick

Serving in Worship Next Week:

Assisting Minister:
Reader:
Counter:

Bre Myers
Sheldon Erb
Sheldon Erb

Worship Ministry:

Ways we gather in praise of God.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request send it to the church office (office@stmarksconshy.org). They will be shared with Pr. Bryan. If we receive it by Friday morning, it will be included in that Sunday's Prayers of the People.

Dinner Church

Join us on Thursday evenings for a time of fellowship and prayer in our Dinner Church worship service. We gather at 6pm on Zoom. Check out the link in the weekly pastor's email.

Again & Again – Our Lenten Refrain

This week we hear how “again & again” God comes “meet us” when things get difficult – the desert, after the flood, in a pandemic are all places that God meets us with grace. Spend some time this week reflecting on our weekly refrain – how did God come to meet you this week?

Faith Formation Ministry:

Ways you can deepen your faith life

Baptized We Live | Renewing our Baptismal Promises

Join Pastor during the season of Lent on *Wednesday's at 7pm* for a bible study that explores our renews our baptismal covenant. This quick refresher course on our core promises of baptismal will help us renew the core practices of discipleship and renew our understanding of how we live as Christians in the world. Each week is a different part of the baptismal covenant (live, hear, proclaim, serve, and strive) so feel free to drop in on any of the weeks you are able to attend.

Topic: Lent Bible Study

Time: Wednesday @ 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86524385103?pwd=WGdDQzVKMWJNYXRuaGFnQnJtRoVDUTo9>

Meeting ID: 865 2438 5103

Passcode: saintmarks

Fellowship & Evangelism Ministry:

Ways you can help spread the "Good News" with others

Easter Egg Industry

It is no surprise that this year has been a truly extraordinary one due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The pandemic has affected all of us and so it also is impacting our Easter Egg Candy production and sales this year. Given current Health Department guidelines, there is no way for us to safely gather to make the candies at our church the way we traditionally do this year. But we don't want the tradition to go away!!!

This year we have partnered with Evan's Candies to help us safely produced Easter Eggs that we are calling our "COVID Edition" eggs. They will be similar to our eggs, but not exact. They will utilize many of our ingredients, but they will be made at their candy factory to reduce our volunteer hours. We see this as a way to also help out local businesses that are also impacted by the pandemic and create a small fundraiser for our church.

We will still have coconut, mint, and peanut butter eggs available for sale.

And due to the partnership we have had to increase our price to \$12.50 a box.

Orders are still going to be filled on a first come, first serve basis, so getting your orders in early is the best way to ensure that your orders will be filled this year.

[PLACE YOUR ORDERS BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Service Ministry:

Ways you can do God's work with your hands

PJ's For Cradles to Crayons

Cradles to Crayons is in need of PJ's, they have specific needs of: boys and girls-7/8, 10/12, 14/16, 18/20. They can also take adult small or medium - if the styles are appropriate for kids. Please note that they cannot accept any holiday themes (winter if fine) or family references. They are also in need of underwear. Specific sizes were 2T for boys and girls and girls 18/20. Donations can be dropped at the 508 Harry Street parcel room delivery entrance.

Monthly Special Collection Envelope: American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. Their Global Headquarters are located in Atlanta, Georgia, and the ACS has regional and local offices throughout the country to ensure that the ACS has presence in every community. For more info: www.cancer.org

Blessing Bags

As folks return to venturing out in public more, Rebecca Casey reminded me that folks might need some blessing bags during this time. There is a box of them in the Parcel Room at the church. Feel free to take as many as you would like and I'll refill them as I see it needs refilling, we have more inside the church.

Food Collection Items Needed

Given the unknown nature of this time of "physical distancing" when some school students are at home all or part of each week, many families are still struggling with food insecurity. Kid friendly snacks are especially

appreciated. As always, CNC continues to be in need of Chef Boyardee, fruit and 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.