

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 YEAR A

Prelude “Toccata IV”

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

The Penitential Rite

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People ***Who bears our burdens and forgives our sin. Amen.***

Presider Blessed be our God.

People ***Now and for ever. Amen.***

Presider Blessed be our God, who redeems our lives from the grave,

People ***And crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. Amen.***

Presider Blessed be our God, who leads us besides still waters.

People ***Blessed be our God for we shall not want.***

Presider Blessed be our God, who restores our souls.

People ***Blessed be our God our shepherd and guide.***

Presider Blessed be our God, who walks with us through the valleys of the shadow of death.

People ***Blessed be our God for ever and ever. Amen.***

Presider Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People ***for we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.***

Presider Create in us a clean heart, O God,

People ***and make us a new creation. Amen.***

Presider “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:8,9

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as able

Opening Hymn 143 “The glory of these forty days”

(Blue 1982 Hymnal)

The Deacon then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Deacon Our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People ***We confess to you, O God.***

Deacon Our self-indulgence, and our exploitation of other people, our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People ***We confess to you, O God.***

Deacon For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People ***Accept our repentance, O God.***

Deacon For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People ***Accept our repentance, O God.***

Deacon Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People ***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

Presider

May the Eternal God forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Kyrie Hymnal S98

Mathias

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Together let us pray.

(In unison) Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 *Beati quorum* *(sung by the choir)*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

- 6 I said," I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
- Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Epistle: Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

People **Thanks be to God.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

Affirmation of Faith

Deacon: Let us declare our faith in God.

The Nicene Creed: Adapted (Inclusive and Expansive Language)

Creed prepared by the Rt. Rev. Deon K Johnson

We believe in one God, the Holy One, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Creator; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation this Word came down from heaven: was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, and became truly human. For our sake Jesus

was crucified under Pontius Pilate; suffered death and was buried. On the third day Christ rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Creator. Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and God's reign will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Creator; who with the Creator and the Christ is worshiped and glorified; who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader In this holy season of Lent, let us turn to God in prayer, saying, ***“Have mercy, O Lord.”***

We pray for this holy gathering, and that we, who have found God's promise in the waters of baptism, may be led by the Spirit to hunger for the word of life; we pray, ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may as one share in the death and resurrection of Christ;

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Delaney and Jerre our clergy, and for all the holy People of God;

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Poplar Bluff;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury and The Church of Ireland;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Sociedad de Mujeres Episcopales;

We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We give thanks on his birthday with Benjamin Cashen. We pray, ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

For this country, for all nations and their leaders, that they may serve with justice, wisdom, and compassion, and for all peoples of the earth who share God's covenant of peace, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; we pray,

Have mercy, O Lord.

For the hungry, homeless, the oppressed, and all in detention; for all victims of violence; for all immigrants and those who live in fear of being separated from their homes and families; and for all those who suffer from illness and their caregivers; we pray,

Have mercy, O Lord.

We pray for our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need;

We pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud [pause];

We pray for all who struggle with the relentless demands of addiction, that God may strengthen them in their recovery;

For those serving in the armed forces; we pray,

Have mercy, O Lord.

For our families, friends, and companions, and all those we love; we pray

Have mercy, O Lord.

For those who have died and now share your eternal light, and for those who grieve; we pray,

Have mercy, O Lord.

The Presider offers this concluding collect

Lord Jesus, you proclaimed the Good News in Galilee, saying that the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; grant us the strength and wisdom to repent and believe in the Good News, this day and always. ***Amen.***

The Peace *All stand as able*

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

The Congregation greets one another with the peace of Christ.

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

Children's Time

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem “Bread of Heaven”

Bread of heaven on thee we feed, for
thou art our food indeed;
Ever may our souls be fed with this
true and living bread:
Day by day with strength supplied,
through the life of him who died.

Peter Mathews (b. 1944)

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give, to
thy cross we look and live.
Jesus, may we ever be grafted, rooted,
built in thee. ©2005 Birmamwood Publications

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

Presider At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People ***By your will they were created and have their being.***

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People ***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

People ***By his blood, he reconciled us.***

People ***By his wounds, we are healed.***

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Presider and People

Sanctus and Benedictus S124 *Hurd*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People ***We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.***

Presider Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People ***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Presider God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal. Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen***

The Presider then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem “Lamb of God” (From *Enriching our Music*)

Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
have _____ mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world: have _____ mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant _____ us _____ peace.

Setting: David Hurd, from **Music for the Eucharist**, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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Invitation to Communion

Presider

Draw near with hope and with wonder. Receive the life of Christ, the Bread of Heaven, and the Cup of Salvation poured out in love for you.

The Ministration of Communion

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome to receive the Holy Communion at this altar. Gluten free hosts are available. At the altar rail, please let the priest know that you require gluten free.

Communion Hymn 142 “Lord, who throughout these forty days”

(Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Post Communion Prayer

After the Silence the Presider invites the congregation to stand and pray saying:

Presider God is with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Together, let us pray.

Silence is kept.

People ***Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

The Blessing

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn 449 “O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

(Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Dismissal

Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude “Chacone in G Minor”

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Matthew Cashen

Usher: Amanda Cashen

Greeter: Diane Nienkemper

Altar Guild: Jon Danieley

Livestream: Lucy Danieley

Crucifer: Sam Barrett

Chalice: Roger Robards/Sam Barrett

Godly Play: Mehta

Coffee Hour: Margaret Hvatum

Sequence Hymn WLP 805 “I want Jesus to walk with me”



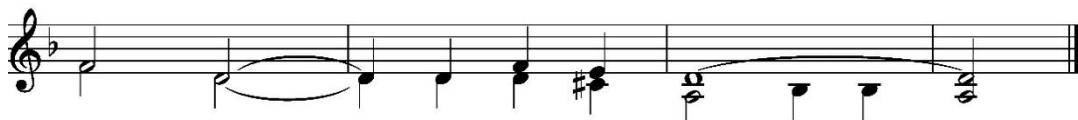
1. I want Je - sus_____ to walk with me (walk with me); I want
 2. In my tri - als,_____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); in my
 3. In my sor - rows,_____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); in my



Je - sus_____ to walk with me (walk with me); all a -
 tri - als,_____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); when the
 sor - rows,_____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); when my



long my_____ pil - grim jour - ney,_____ Lord, I want
 shades of_____ life are fall - ing,_____ Lord, I want
 heart with - in is ach - ing,_____ Lord, I want



Je - sus_____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 Je - sus_____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 Je - sus_____ to walk with me (walk with me).

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood collection of Negro Spirituals*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Usher Training

There will be a training for all current ushers and those interested in joining the usher team on Sunday, 3/1 after worship in the sanctuary.

Journey through Lent



Journey through Lent Calendars are now available on the back credenza in the back of the church.

Evensong at the Christ Church Cathedral

On Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. St. Mark's choir will join the choir of Christ Church Cathedral in a service of Evensong at the Cathedral. In celebration of Black History month, the service will feature works of African American composers William Grant Still, David Hurd, Fela Sowande, and others. We are very honored to have been invited to participate, and we hope that many St. Mark's folks will attend. All are welcome!

Diving into Baptism

Did you know Lent is historically the time of year when new Christians prepared for baptism? This process was traditionally called the catechumenate, leading up to baptisms at the Easter Vigil. This year, this season of reflection and renewal is coming to St. Mark's. If you are interested in diving deep into our baptismal covenant, the promises made at baptism and affirmed at confirmation, join us after worship in the parish hall each Sunday in March. On Palm Sunday, our learning will culminate with a visit from the bishop and the rite of confirmation during worship.

****If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church during Bishop Deon's visit, please speak with Delaney+!****

Peace Meal

Are you interested in serving your neighbors? Consider joining St. Mark's at the Peace Meal at St John's Church on March 7th. We need volunteers for the first afternoon shift for cooking from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and the 2nd shift from 3:45pm to 5:30pm to serve and clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please notify Marti Robards or Diane Nienkemper if you would like to help.

Living Sparks of God's Love

Emmanuel is hosting a one day retreat for all interested in preparing their hearts and minds for the Lenten Season. Saturday February 28th from 8:30am-4pm. The cost is \$30 per person. Breakfast and lunch is included. [HERE](#) is the flyer with more information, or click on the QR code below.



A wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the page. A vibrant purple ribbon is wrapped around the cross, and several palm fronds are tucked behind it. The background is a solid purple color.

Holy Week 2026

March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:00am with Rt. Rev. Deon
K Johnson, Bishop Diocesan

April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday

5:30pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Worship

April 3, 2026 Good Friday

12:00pm Worship
7:00pm Worship

April 4, 2026 Easter Vigil

7:30pm Sundown Worship
Beginning on the Plaza

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday

10:00am Worship and breakfast

Online Giving at St. Mark's

Thank you so much for your desire to support the ministry here at St. Mark's! If you would like to give online, simply scan the QR code below using the camera on your smart phone to visit our online giving platform.

Your generosity is a blessing!



We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially Duane and Anne Benson, Yulia Borjte, Canon Desiree Brattin, Steve Chamberlin, Randy and Jenny Coffey, Alicia Crowe, Tom Gard, Sue Garrett, Mark Godfrey, Yaz Hernández and their extended family, Denise Huber, Margaret and Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jane Kozielec and Allen, Debbie Kramer, Stephanie Maass, the McLean, Haggerty, and Casey families, Penny McCullough, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Neice Nelson, Betty Orlando, Kristen Patterson, Barbara Raedeke, Nancy Raedeke, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Cheryl Schulz, Lois Schubert, Rick Schubert, Logan Smith, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Scott Thomas, Bill Trafka, Casey Tyler, Roy Watts, David and Doris Westfall, The White Family, Gene Wilberg, Susan Winfrey, The Workman Family, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug, Fritz, Rebecca, Lynn, Catreta and Dennis.

We give thanks on his birthday with Benjamin Cashen.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Jesse Foy, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Logan Smith.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson	Bishop of MO	Barbara Raedeke	Organist and Choir Director
The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse	Rector	Celeste Kocot	Youth Christian Formation
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong	Deacon	Melissa Engle	Parish Administrator
The Rev. Dr. Teresa K.M. Danieley	Priest Associate		