

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2026 YEAR A

Welcome

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church! Whether this is your first time or thousandth time in worship with us, we are so glad you are here. St. Mark's is an inclusive community of faith, committed to celebrating God's creative love in all people. Together, we strive to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. You are welcome here—in worship, at the communion table, and in our walk together.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship each week, you are invited to find a comfortable space to sit quietly and listen to the prelude. The prelude is the first part of worship, setting the tone for what is to come and helping God's people to unplug from the rhythms of daily life and prepare for a time of worship. We hope this musical offering will resonate in your soul and invite you into our worship practice.

Prelude "Pastorella: III"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 401 “The God of Abraham praise” *(Blue 1982 Hymnal)*

The Presider then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

Presider 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.***

Presider 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.***

Presider 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.***

Presider 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) O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

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

Psalm Hymn 668 “I to the hills will lift my eyes” (paraphrase of Psalm 121)

The Epistle: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise

that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

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

Sequence Hymn 603 “When Christ was lifted from the earth”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel: John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in

the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

The Homily

The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

Affirmation of Faith

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

The Nicene Creed: Adapted (Inclusive and Expansive Language)

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 God sent God’s Son into the world to save the world. As we prepare for the paschal feast, let us earnestly beseech God to grant all peoples everywhere new birth in the Spirit, praying, ***“Have mercy, O Lord.”***

We pray for the church throughout the world, that we may be a blessing and exhibit the faith and obedience of Abraham and Sarah;

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 the Episcopal Church of St. John and St. James in Sullivan;
In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury and for The Nippon Sei Ko Kai;
In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision La Epifania in Maricao;
We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We give thanks on their birthdays with Melissa Edwards and Andrew LaBeaume and on their anniversary with Susan Goen and Ed Rich. We pray,
Have mercy, O Lord.

For all who share the faith of Abraham, for all nations and families of the earth, especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; for this country, and for all our leaders that they may govern with truth, wisdom, justice, and mercy; we pray,
Have mercy, O Lord.

For the hungry, homeless, and the oppressed, and for immigrants and refugees, those held in detention, and all who live in fear of separation from their homes and families; we pray,
Have mercy, O Lord.

We pray for our deliverance from all affliction, illness, strife, and need, that we may find shelter and protection under God's wings;
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

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

arr. Austin Lovelace (1919-2010)

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me with his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.
I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me with his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.

©1990 Hope Publishing

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

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

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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 636 “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord”

(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 473 “Lift high the cross”

(Blue 1982 Hymnal)

Dismissal

Presider 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 “Carillon de Westminster”

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

This morning we welcome organist Katie Ritzema, who plays the postlude. Katie is a Master’s degree student in musicology at Washington University, and an organ student of Barbara Raedeke.

Creed prepared by the Rt. Rev. Deon K Johnson

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Margaret Hvatum

Usher: Kittie Golomski

Greeter: Marti Robards

Altar Guild: Tom Bradley

Livestream: Vicki Stegmann

Crucifer: Scott Thompson

Chalice: Susan Goen/Scott Thompson

Godly Play: Odle

Coffee Hour: Ellen Jeffery

Usher Training

There will be a training for all current ushers and those interested in joining the usher team Today after worship in the sanctuary.

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, Jane Kozielec and Allen, Debbie Kramer, Becky Kruse, Stephanie Maass, the McLean, Haggerty, and Casey families, Penny McCullough, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Neice Nelson, Betty Orlando, Barbara Raedeke, Nancy Raedeke, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Cheryl Schulz, Lois Schubert, Tom Schroeder, Rick Schubert, Logan Smith, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Scott Thomas, Bill Trafka, Casey Tyler, Roy and Karen Watts, David and Doris Westfall, The White Family, Gene Wilberg, Susan Winfrey, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug, Fritz, Rebecca, Lynn, Catreta and Dennis.

We give thanks on their birthdays with Melissa Edwards and Andrew LaBeaume and on their anniversary with Susan Goen and Ed Rich.

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

4714 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109

314/832-3588

revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org

www.saintmarks-stl.org

parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org

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		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Take me out to the Ballgame 2

St. Mark's at the Ballpark is happening again this year. The game will be the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Kansas City Royals on Sunday May 17th. Game starts at 1:15pm. Tickets will be \$20-\$25 per person (based on interest). Sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall. Contact Margaret Hvatum for more information.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

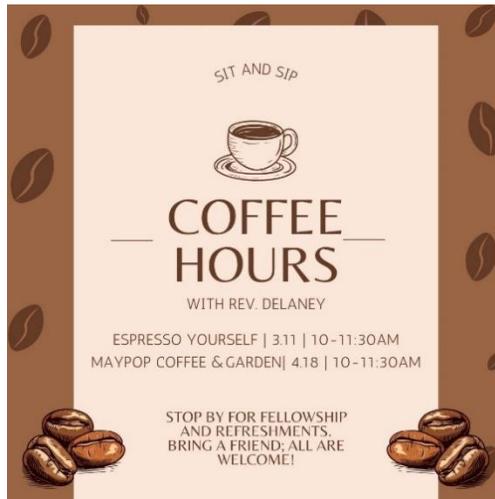


Soup
Supper

On Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, we will be having a Soup Supper at 5:30 prior to the 7pm Service. We are looking for volunteers to bring soup and also to help with Set-up and Clean-up. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or contact Susan Goen for more information.

Playground Task Force

We are reigniting the conversation about installing a Playground on St. Mark's property. If you would like to be part of that conversation, please sign-up in the Parish Hall. **No commitment required.**



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