

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

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Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14h, 2021

Worship Service available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4shzV0tlieY>

Prelude: *Meditation on 'Deep River'* -arr. Dennis Janzer

Hymn: *Kind Maker of the World, O Hear* Hymnal 152 v. 1-3

Acclamation The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: *His mercy endures for ever.*

Celebrant: Collect for Purity

Kyrie Eleison S-91

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Collect of the Day Book of Common Prayer 219

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

***Congregation:* Collect for St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

Gracious God, through your Fatherly goodness, make St. Mark's a Christian community united to serve others; enrich our life in Christ, that we might celebrate and share Christ's love; and send your Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage to proclaim the Good News of your love through word and deed. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Numbers (Numbers 21:4-9) Reader: Johnna Lillich

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Peter A. Madpak, Cantor

Refrain:



The God of all cre - a - tion is God of peace and love.

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Verses:

1. Give thanks for the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord speak out, you that are gathered from all the lands. (R)
2. Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.
They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door. (R)
3. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
He sent forth his word and healed them and saved them from the grave. (R)
4. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.
Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy. (R)

A Reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2 Eph. 2:1-10) Reader: Grace Mahoney

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel: John 3:14-21

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Judith Roberts

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our
sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose
again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Form VI

BCP 392

People may stand or kneel for the prayers.

Deacon or Leader

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Dabney our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession of Sin

BCP 393

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

BCP 360

The Peace: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Anthem: *Celtic Laud*

Craig Courtney

**THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

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 only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

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:

Sanctus

S-125



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, 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 Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he 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."

After supper, he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; 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. 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.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, 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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S-164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lenten Blessing

The Dismissal: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Tocatta on 'Lift High the Cross'*

-arr. David Cherwien

The Sanctuary Candle is given in loving memory of:
Kathryn Price, by the Price Family

The prayers of the parish family are asked for those who have died:
Robert Olivieri, Ann Wagenknecht Wilson, Alan Freeman



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Education Series with Father Mike - Wednesday, March 17rd at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom: Join Father Mike as he *ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love*. This series will continue through April 7th. **March 17 BLESS: A New Heart and a New Spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-28);** March 24 REST: The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14); March 31 WORSHIP: The Gathering of God's People (Zephaniah 3:12-20); April 7 GO: The Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1-12). Zoom Meeting ID: 948 1580 8175 and Passcode: 941. [MEETING LINK](#) Can't make it? The series will be recorded. Please call the Church Office if you would like us to email you the link to the digital recording. Need a place to view it or don't have a computer? Contact the Church Office to reserve a seat to view the Zoom meeting from the Conference Room in the Church office.

St. Mark's Book Circle Tuesday, March 16th at 10:00 a.m. in Gray Hall. March's book is *The Book of Two Ways*, by Jodi Picoult. This group meets the third Tuesday each month, with summer vacation May-September.

ECW Quiet Day, Tuesday, March 23rd, 8:00 a.m. at DaySpring. Quiet day is a special time to gather for mediation and reflection. The facilitators this year will be Deacon Joyce Treppa and Dr. Jon Campbell. *Registration is closed for this event.*

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a simple way for each individual to UNITE with other Episcopalians to express THANKS to God for His blessing by OFFERING prayers and resources to support innovative mission and ministry to our neighbors around the world. Through UTO you are encouraged to notice the good things that happen each day and make an offering for each blessing by adding to your contribution envelope. Included in the March newsletter you will find collection envelopes. For those folks that prefer to count their daily blessings by using the blue UTO box, they will be available in the church on Sundays, or in the church offering during the week. Contact the church office if you would like one mailed to you. Find more info at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/united-thank-offering/>

Venice's Annual CROP WALK: The walk has happened, and we are thankful to all who walked to support the event. It is not too late for you to sponsor those walkers, either by putting a check in the collection plate, mailing a check to the office or online - select the fund for 2021 Crop Walk. Deadline to donate to this year's event is March 22nd. The need this year is great due to the pandemic. For more information contact Dennis Keck (609-969-0033) or Jon Barrick (941-306-9227)

Lenten Meditation with The Order of the Daughters of the King, based on the St. Francis prayer, "Lord Make us Instruments of your Peace" and led by Rev. Dee Ann de Montmollin. All are welcome to join this group on Zoom **every Tuesday through March 23rd**, at 6:30 p.m. for 15-20 minutes. Zoom information: Member ID 216 337 7615, Passcode: DOK

12th Annual Venice Bible Readathon April 6-10: Public reading of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation in Centennial Park. Register to read, 10-15 minute time slots, at <https://venice.biblereadathon.org/>

CONTINUING EVENTS

"In-person" Worship - Sundays at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Seating is limited. Please register to reserve your seat on our website: <https://stmarksvenice.com/services> or by calling the office. Registration opens Tuesday for the following Sunday's service. For more details, please contact the office.

“In-person” Outside Worship - Saturdays 4:30 p.m. Join us outside on the labyrinth for the Saturday Evening Eucharist Service. No reservations are required, we will ask you to sign in when you attend. Mask and social distancing will be the norm. We will have outdoor chairs available, or you can bring your own chair.

Coffee Hour, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Grab your cup of coffee and join us for some fellowship via [Zoom meetings](#). Sit at your own table and enjoy the weekly conversation about this and that! For more information on Zoom or for help starting Zoom, please contact the church office or check out www.zoom.us. Zoom is an easy video/audio conferencing application. You can join with audio only from any regular telephone.

Drive-Through Communion – Sundays at 11 a.m. – Noon. You are invited to receive Holy Communion from the safety of your car. While this is an unusual approach, we do long to share the blessing of Holy Eucharist as part of our Sunday celebration of prayer and thanksgiving. Please enter the parking lot behind Gray Hall via Riviera Street.

Morning Prayer under the Oaks on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 9:30 a.m. We now have chairs available or you can still bring your own chair, masks are required.

Men’s Morning Fellowship – Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Weekly opportunity for Men's fellowship. During the pandemic, the meetings have been held online **via Zoom**. Please contact the church office for the Zoom meeting details.

Youth Group – Wednesday evenings – 4th-8th Grades meet at 6:00 p.m. 9th-12th Grades meet at 7:00 p.m.



INTERCESSIONS: For the universal Church; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Anglican Communion; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Julio, Bishop of our Companion Diocese; for St. Mark’s Clergy; for a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East; for civilian workers; for military chaplains; our service personnel, their families; victims of terror and abuse everywhere; for all those suffering due to disasters of nature.

THE SICK: Jean Alfano, Chad Alley, Milt Barnes, John Barr, Emma Bentley, Sue Bickenton, Joyce Bishop, Patricia Blow, Barbara & Ed Boucher, Barry Briggs, Gibb Brownlie, Genevieve Brussee, Scott Buckley, Dick Bull, Betty Caldwell, Jackson Carmichael, Kayce Caswell, Loretta Cunningham, Donne Cutting, Janie Davis, Ron Davis, Carole Doll, Connie Dowry, Shari Duval, John Eichman, Rodney Eller, Evelyn Eisenhower, Chris Emmons, Mack Emmons, Judy Epperson, Robert Evans, Ouida Felker, Clint Ferrazzo, Dan Flatt, Lyn Ford, Jerry Freischlag, Bob Fritche, Flora Garsten, Michael Gavin, Lynda Geyer, Jason Goss, Betty Graves, Jennifer Grieger, Joshua Griffin, Douglas Griffith, Anne Grubb, Steve Grupp, Tracy Hagar, Meredith and Allan Hardman, Woody Harvey, Sue Hatch, Penny Heleman, Kristin Hickey, Hobey Hinchman, Christina Hines, Linda Hintzpeter, Natalie Holcroft, Linda Hopkins, Madeline Horvath, Linda Hubbard, Matt Hulbert, John Hussey, Nancy Hussey, Eleanor Jean, Jennifer, Forrest Jerome, Jill, Joshua Johns, Karen & Steven Kabatski, Molly Kehoe, Robert Kench, Janine Kiddle, Sarah Kipp, Kirstin Knotph, Lee Krumbacher, Mary Krzos, Charles Lakowsky, Jennifer & Jack Laules, Joyce Leithauser, Leslie Livinghouse, E. Melvin Lloyd, Bill Luckfield, Scott Macintosh, Anita Marshall, Paul Marshall, Michael Mayo, Willa McCafferty, Victor Mankiewicz, Kim Medvedis, Melissa McCoy, Barbara Minor, Andrea Montgomery, Elizabeth Moser, Pam Motte, Mark Nettesheim, Elizabeth Ord, Rachel Parrish, Lucy Patterson, Deb & Holly Ranieri, Eli Rider, Dori Reiley, Tom Ritzel, Sarah and Aaron Royster, Lora Rzepka, Barbara Sammons, Cynthia Schein, Linda Seerey-Lester, David Sherwood, Liz Shetterly, Helen Sica, David Simmons, Jeff Slang, Doug Small, Rich Smith, Lisa Spears, Nan Stortz, Mike Strasburger, Nancy Tabor, Molly Taylor, Marvin Thomas, Sally Thomas, Harris H. Tibbetts, Jr., Peter Tibbetts, David Todd, Len Van Zinderen, Jim Walker, Eddie Ward, Christopher Warnock, Connie Waymer, Ann Weaver, Bernie Welker, John White, Lisa Whole, Bob Williams, Kathryn Williams, Kourtney Williams, Hubert Willis, Randy Willis, Robert Wills, Tara Wintermute, Jan Wolf, Mark Woodward, Ann Worrall, Kevin Zwick, and those in nursing homes and our parish homebound.

