



**Welcome to
St. Marks's Episcopal Church**

Living Inclusively, Promoting Justice, Sharing Hope

**The First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ in a radically inclusive, respectful and loving community, mobilized as His disciples to alleviate suffering, while working for equity, justice, and mercy in every aspect of life. To become God's Beloved Community.

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector
The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Clergy Associate-Retired
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster
Rob Turner, Sr. Warden – Hillery Douglas, Jr. Warden



The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.

Opening Proclamation

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

CHORAL INTROIT

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Hymnal 142

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE ONE

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth for ever.

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: 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 is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

(Reader: *A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy*)

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 **He shall say to the Lord,**
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

**10 *There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.***

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

**12 *They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.***

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

**14 *Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.***

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

**16 *With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.***

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 10: 8b-13

(Reader: *A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans*)

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(Reader: *Here ends the reading.*)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

Hymnal 343

THE GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,
"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

**In the Lord I'll be every thankful.
In the Lord I will rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Elsa Mintz

THE NICENE CREED

*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.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Ruth, our Bishop, Michael and Jennie our priests, Shawan our seminarian and Reverend Elsa Mintz, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President, Henry, our Governor and William, our mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of our Patron St. Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The Congregation prays in unison:

Most gracious and glorious God, we ask your blessing upon those who travel in your Spirit, transversing the pilgrim way. We pray for Anita and Michael Jefferson, Marj and Roger Williams, Gail De Costa, Jim Etheredge, Vicki Williams, Ellen Hardin, Michele Watson, Rob Turner, Minerva King, Shawan Gillians, Rev. Jennie, Fr. Michael and Erin Shaffer.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide their minds to learn from those who traveled before them the roads of history, bending the long moral arc of the universe evermore toward justice. Keep them safe in body, mind and spirit, nurture them in fellowship and guide them in your ways of truth, justice and love.

All this we ask in the name your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy Spirit..

SONG Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place *Sung by all.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY The Prayer of St. Patrick William M. Schoenfeld

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION Hymnal # 380, verse 3

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION – RITE I - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

People and Celebrant sing.

Our Father, which 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 debt, as we forgive our debtors. 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

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

THE INVITATION

At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.

Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest as you approach the chalice. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest when approaching the priest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

I Trust in God, Wherever I May Be
Near the Cross

LEVAS 59
LEVAS 29

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

All: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

In Christ There is No East or West

HYMNAL 529

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

Sung by all.

*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

The worship is over. Now the service begins.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Rev. Elsa Mintz, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Lerone Johnson, Sr, *Crucifer & Eucharist Minister*

Walter Boags, *Lector*

Ginny Grayson, Patricia Gates, Alphonso Grayson, Dana Beecken, *Altar Guild*

Gin Waters, *Flowers*

Angela Hare & Cheo Romano, *Ushers*



The Altar adornments are given by Vicki Williams
in Thanksgiving for
the new vestry and granddaughter Michaela's 4th birthday.

A Lenten Prayer by Henri Nouwen

The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death. I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are not times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen.

Send Prayer List Requests to Fr. Michael and Cheryl. The St. Mark's Prayer List is being reconstituted. If you have someone you would like added to the Prayer List, please email Fr. Michael directly and Cheryl at office@saintmarkschurch.com.

Altar Flower Donations. Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

Patriot Point Veterans. Please support veterans living at Patriot's Point by placing quarters in the green bucket in the Narthex, which can be used by them for laundry, bus fare and other essentials.

Free parking is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

Parish Office Hours are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.

