

The Third Sunday in Lent



Bulletin Graphic: Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Portland, OR

March 23, 2025

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:30 am.

Our YouTube channel link is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

We appreciate your financial generosity to support our mission and ministry. Though we do not pass the offering plate during service, you can find it at the entrance of the church or contribute online at stmarksandstjohns.org/give.

PRELUDE

Instrumental

OPENING MUSIC

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

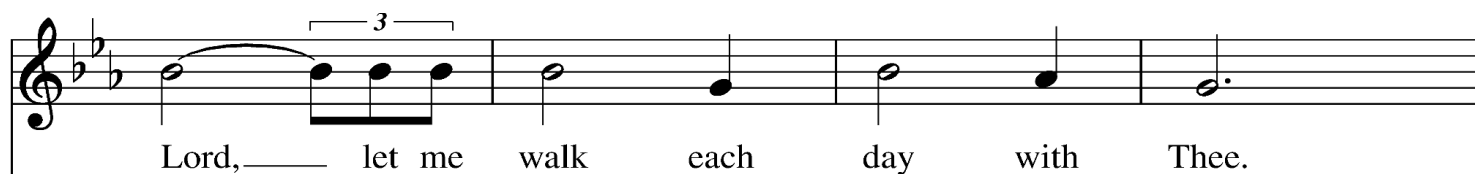
LEVAS, 194



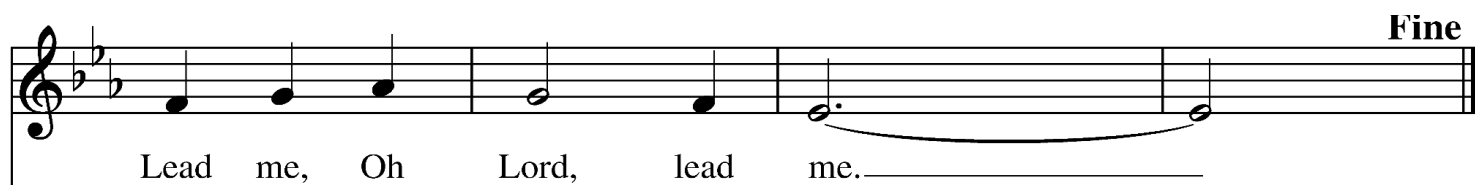
Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,



For if you lead me, I can - not stray.

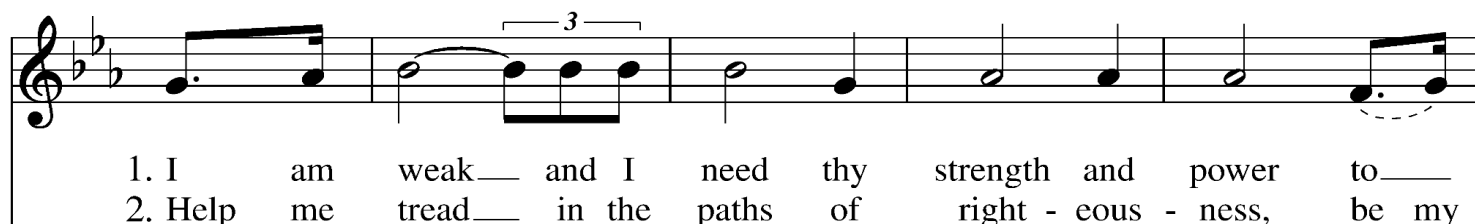


Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

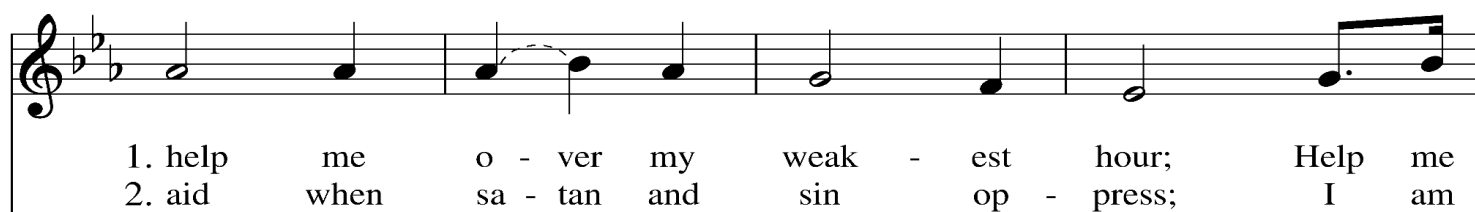


Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

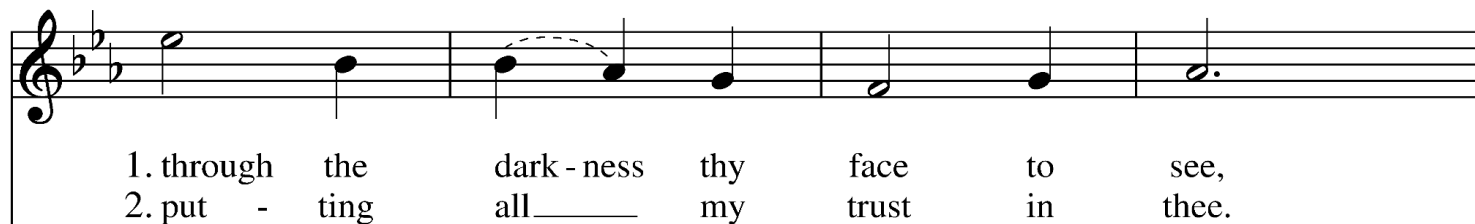
Fine



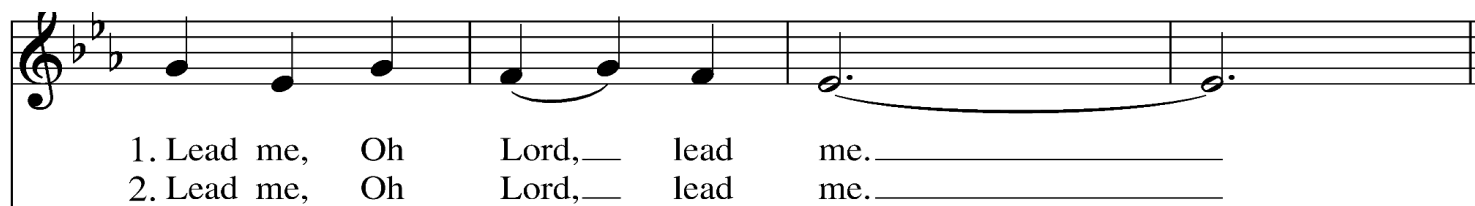
1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my



1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am



1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
2. put - ting all my trust in thee.



1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECTS

Loving Jesus: Protect and sustain us with your hand. Open the door of your love that, sealed with your wisdom, we may be free to serve you with joy. **Amen.** (*St. Gertrude, 1256-1302*)

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

A reading from the book of Exodus, the third chapter...

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the

God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and
dry land where there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from the book of First Corinthians, the tenth chapter...

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN HYMN

“Softly and Tenderly”



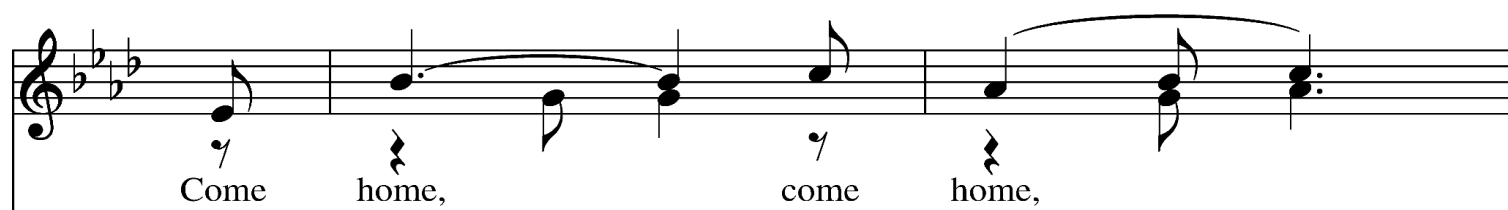
1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,



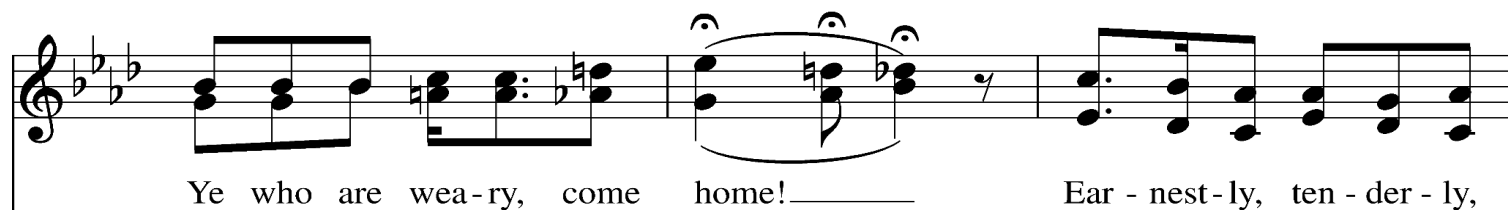
1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's




1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —



Come home, come home,



Ye who are wea - ry, come home! — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home! —

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in

this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

Maria Hartz-Clineburg, M.Div.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Order of Saint Columba

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

MEDITATIVE MUSIC *Please be seated.*

You're invited to write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards and light a candle during the music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please stand or kneel

You are within us and among us, O Christ, as the one who is alive for ever. In the sorrows and sufferings of our lives you are with us as the one who holds the keys of new beginnings. There is no ending in the world, there is no fear in our lives, there is no despair in our hearts, that your living presence cannot unlock.

Silence

You heal what is broken and make all things new. Give peace to those impacted by fires, floods, and earthquakes.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You created the earth and all it contains. Send rain and snow to parched places so that plants and animals thrive. Direct us to be good stewards of all that you have created.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us as your children and comfort us in our afflictions. Bring patience to the distressed, compassion to the grieving, and relief to the suffering. We pray especially today for...

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us turn back toward God by confessing our sins.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.

Celebrant: By water and the Holy Spirit, God has given us new birth, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

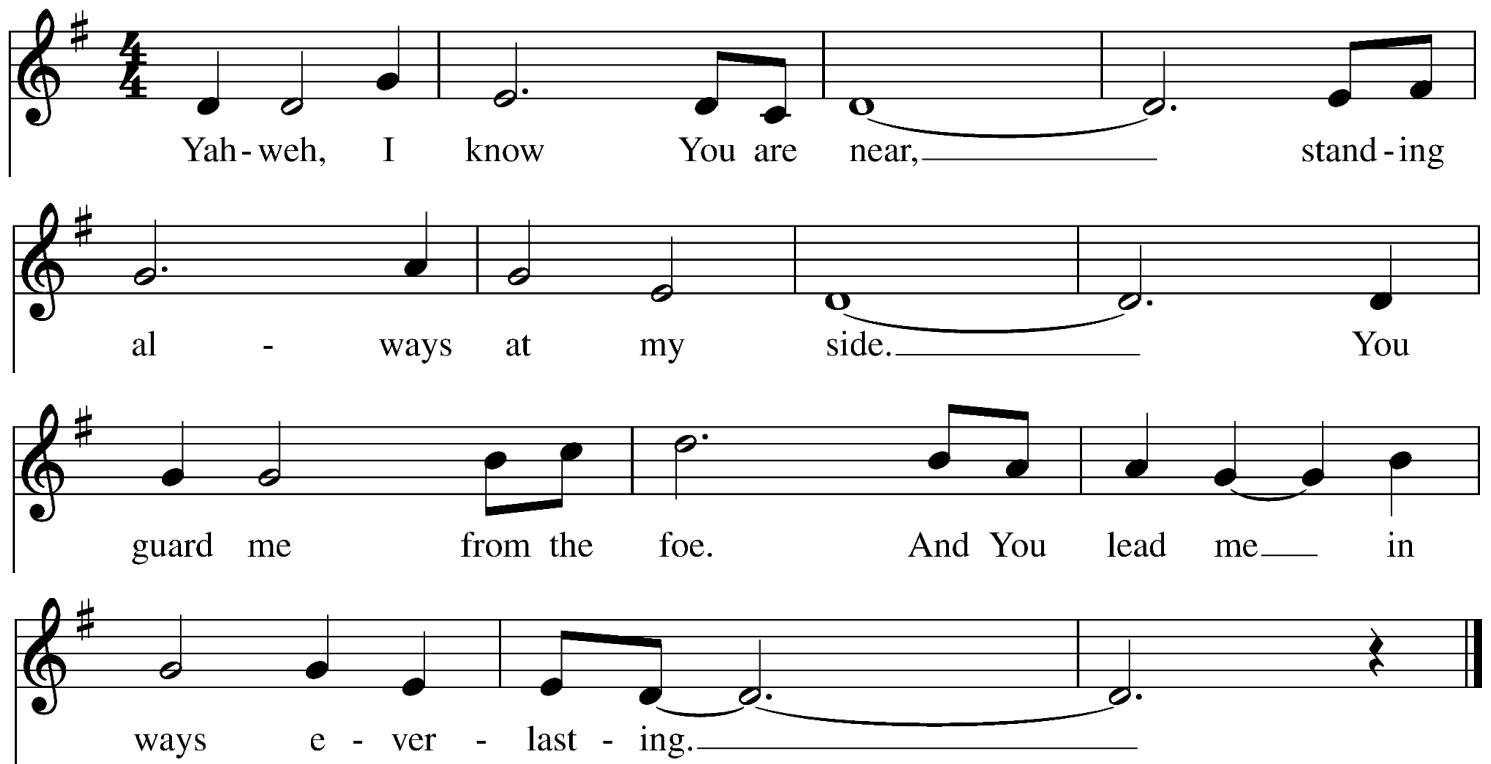
OFFERING

Eucharistic ministers bring our monetary offering and elements of bread and wine for communion forward. The altar is prepared for the Eucharistic celebration.

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

OFFERTORY

“You are Near” (2x)



Yah-weh, I know You are near, stand-ing
al-ways at my side. You
guard me from the foe. And You lead me in
ways e-ver-last-ing.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise

are yours at all times and in all places,

our true and loving God;



through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
The Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

Eucharistic Ministers - the Sanctus begins with those around the Altar bowing.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Those gathered around the altar stand (and cross themselves if they feel comfortable)

**Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,
your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,
you delivered them from bondage
and led them to a land of promise.
Of your grace, you gave Jesus
to be human, to share our life,
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign

and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.
We thank you that on the night before he died for us

Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
gave it to his friends and said:

**“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

**“Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
Christ life, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of
hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of

Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mark and John and all you people into the joy of our true eternal home.

**Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.**

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Special Lenten version below)*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father in Heaven,

remind us constantly that you are parent to all your children.

Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come,

establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all people.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Make us aware of the needs of others.

Forgive us our sins,

our pride and our prejudices.

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

especially keep our hearts and minds open to see the good in others.

Deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, Just and true,

The power, gentle and fair,

And the glory, filled with the promise of peace.

Are yours forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

FRACTURE ANTHEM

“Let us Break Bread Together”

LEVAS, 152

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees).
2. knees) When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh — Lord, have mer - cy on — me (on me).

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our". The second line continues: "1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our". The third line continues: "1. knees). 2. knees) When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing". The fourth line concludes: "sun, Oh — Lord, have mer - cy on — me (on me).". The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words like "to - geth - er" and "ris - ing" hyphenated across bar lines.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

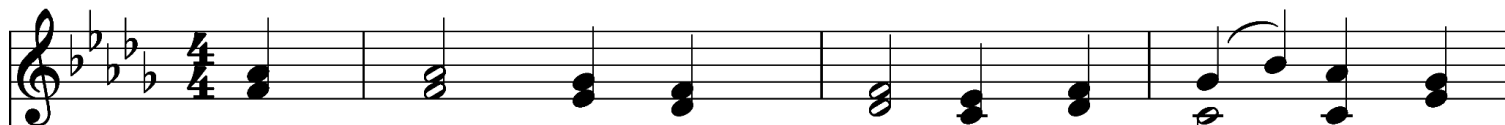
ALL are welcome to receive communion.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms in front of you.

COMMUNION HYMN

"It is Well with my Soul"

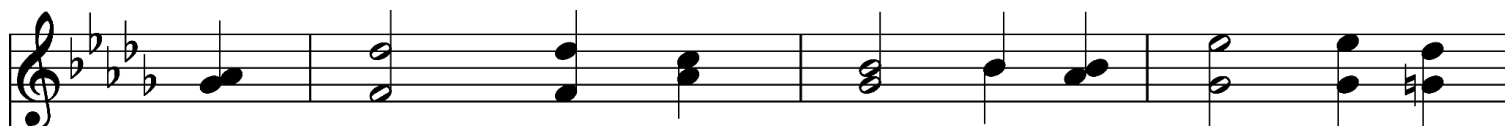
LEVAS, 188



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be



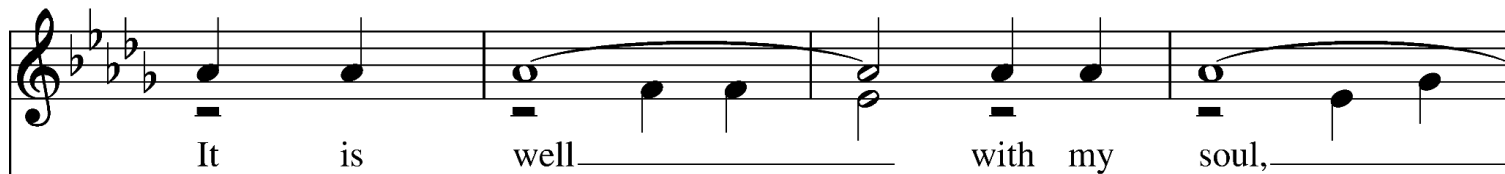
1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,



1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
2. taste, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul,



— It is well, it is well with my soul.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us on our Lenten pilgrimage;
may our fasting bring a hunger for justice;
our gifts and yearning for peace;
and our prayer the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

"THE BLESSING" (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you,
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations
And your family and your children and their children,
and their children. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May you never become cynical.

May you never become jaded.

May you never lose heart.

May you never let fear overwhelm you.

May you see light and good in everyone

May you remain open to wonder and mystery.

May you stand firm in the assault of the powers (shielded with the
armour of God and a good sense of humor)

May you stay rooted in hope.

And the wisdom, love and grace of God strengthen you to be God's hands and heart in this world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the poor.

Thanks be to God.

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

March 24-30

Monday, 3/24	2:30-5:30 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Tuesday, 3/25	1:00 pm - Food Shelf Bagging 2:30-5:30 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers 7 pm @ West Bloomfield UCC - Love is Stronger event (contact Bonnie if you would like to Carpool)
Wednesday, 3/26	10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf 2:30-5:30 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Thursday, 3/27	2:30-5:30 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers NO Office Hours with Maria @ Melo - scheduled for Friday!
Friday, 3/28	2:00-4:00 pm - Maria's Office Hours @ Melo
Saturday, 3/29	
Sunday, 3/30	9:30 am - Worship with Eucharist 10:45 am - Book Group

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Are we missing your information? Send us an email at admin@stmarksandstjohns.org so we can add it and celebrate your special day with you!

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Helena W. - March 17	Celebrating an anniversary in March?
Tamia N. - March 21	Let us know so we can celebrate you!
Deacon Patti - March 29	

Lectors - March-April

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson & Usher	Prayers of the People & Greeter
3/23	Joe C.	Michele H.	Tom F.
3/30	Theresa H.	Steve F.	Sharon K.
4/6	Sharon K.	Mike F.	Mary E.
4/13	Michele H.	Deb S.	Heather G.
4/20	Terri C.	Mary E.	Joe C.
4/27	Nancy W.	Tom F.	Theresa H.

Eucharistic Ministers - March-April

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
3/23	Deb S.	Terri C.	Heather G.
3/30	Bob C.	Dave E.	Mary E.
4/6	Mary E.	Mike F.	Sharon K.
4/13	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Michele H.
4/20	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.
4/27	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.

Announcements

It's time to start seeds! Join us in the Grow Room next month on Saturday, April 12 at 10 am to help us get seeds sprouting for the EDEN Gardens.

Time to start planning for **Community Garden Work Days!** We will gather in the gardens the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, April-September. This is a great way to bring friends and family along for a couple of hours in the EDEN Gardens and see what we're all about. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://bit.ly/gardendays2025>.

Beginning in March, Maria will host **Coffee Office Hours** at Melo (696 University Ave.) on **Thursdays from 2-4 pm**. Stop by for a cup of coffee and conversation in community!

Easter flowers are given in honor and memory of loved ones each year. Envelopes are available at the entrance table for your Easter Flower contribution.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule:

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th	9:30 AM
Maundy Thursday - Agape Super, April 17th	6:00 PM
Good Friday Service - April 18th	12:30 PM
Holy Saturday - April 19th	10:00 AM
Easter Breakfast - April 20th	8:30 AM
<i>New Fire Liturgy - April 20th</i>	9:45 AM
Easter Festival Service (<i>Baptisms</i>) - April 20	10:00 AM



St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

Rector

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D.
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director

Maria Hartz-Clineburg, M.Div.
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Deacon

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

AV Producer

Rob Thornton

Musicians

Amelia Yousey

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev'd Mike Finn

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Members

Bob Caruso (Clerk)
Dave Everson ('28)
Heather Gilfoy ('27)
Theresa Harte ('26)
Michele Holmes ('28)
Ella Webster ('26)
Nancy Willer ('27)

Co-Wardens

Sharon Kowalski ('26)
Nancy Ramsay ('27)

Treasurer

Michele Holmes

Diocesan Delegates

Ella Gruel ('26)
Bonnie Hallman-Dye ('28)
Nancy Ramsay ('26)

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak