

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Reopening Guidelines & Expectations



Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
Midweek Lenten Service
February 24, 2021

Safety Precautions

- If you or someone in your household is sick, please stay home.
- Please physical distance at least 6 feet.
- Follow best hygiene practices – please use hand sanitizer.
- Masks are required. Please put on your mask before entering the church..
- Please cover your cough or sneeze.
- No food or drink allowed in the church at this time.
- The kitchen is closed. Please do not go into the church kitchen.
- The classrooms are closed. Please do not go into the classrooms.
- The water fountains are off. We apologize for the inconvenience.
- Please do not congregate before or after the service.
- Please no singing during the service.
- Please be patient, kind, and understanding.
- No Group may use the church building until they have approval from the church office. The Church Council has the final decision about facility use based on safety considerations.

**Saint Mark's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan
is available in the narthex.**

— The **BOLD** is read by the **Congregation**—

ORDER OF WORSHIP

LENTEN THEME: REDEEMED IN CHRIST

*Ask, and it will be given you; **search**, and you will find; **knock**, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Matthew 7:7-8

WELCOME

DIALOGUE

Asking One,
you are the voice and the silence of our exploration.

Giving One,
you are the fullness and the emptiness of all yearning.

Searching One,
you are the beginning and the end of our search.

Finding One,
you are the alpha and omega of all discovery.

Persistent One,
you never abandon your search for us.

Receiving One,
you endlessly welcome us home, and spread before us a feast in the face of our constant requests for mere morsels of bread.

Ask us, O God,
and receive from within us the pain we bear.

Search us, O God,
and find within us the secrets we hide.

Keep knocking at the door of our lives
until we open our wills to your purpose,
our lives to your life, and our yearning to your hope.

~Adapted from *A Prayer of Adoration and Confession* by Reverend Dr. Anita Monro

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

READING

Ruth 1:6-18

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.” ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again.

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION


Pastor Lue Moua

LENTEN HYMN

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

PRAYER

When we forget to seek you and discover that we have lost our place:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

When we ask once and leave it at that:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we draw back from knocking, lest we disturb you:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Strengthen our courage; bolster our endurance;

spur us onward in your way in our world

through the power of the Holy Spirit

and the name of Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, hear our cry and teach us to pray:

**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,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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OFFERING

~ Offerings may be placed in the basket by the entrance. ~

*Offerings during Wednesday's Lent will go towards the
Randolph Fire Department.*



DISMISSAL

P: We go in peace, Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Thank you for worshipping with us at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church. We welcome and appreciate your presence. May the Lord keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus as we journey together through Lent.

Lenten Theme: Redeemed in Christ

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

February 24

Ruth, *Ruth 1:6-18*

March 3

Daniel, *Daniel 6:16-23*

March 10

Jonah, *Jonah 1:1-3;11-17*

March 17

The Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10

March 24

Paul, *Acts 9:1-22*

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