

Please stand
Prayer for Mission *said by all* BCP 339
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.

Blessing

Hymn in Procession *sung by all*
A mighty fortress is our God (*Ein feste Burg*) Hymnal 688

Dismissal BCP 339

Postlude – Lord, I have sinned F. W. Marpurg

Music Notes

Today is the first Sunday in Lent, and we begin the service with the Great Litany, a sure sign that Lent is upon us. The penitential nature of this wonderful set of sung petitions and responses sets the tone for the day as well as the season, as we repent and turn back towards God and the cross and eventually arrive at Easter. Today’s first two hymns remind us of the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by Satan, the very basis of the forty days of Lent. The closing hymn reminds us of our ongoing battle against Satan and the forces of evil. The offertory anthem reflects themes from the readings from Romans and Matthew, and the communion anthem quotes Psalm 51, the very penitential psalm often used throughout Lent.

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from One License lic. #A-732869 and CCLI lic. #20201141.

What is the Great Litany?

The Great Litany is said to be the first prayer composed in the English language (rather than an English translation from another language) for use in public worship. It is an intercessory prayer said or sung by a leader with fixed responses by the congregation. It was the first rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and published in 1544 (so predating the first BCP). He was influenced by earlier litanies from Latin and German sources. The Litany’s use in church processions was ordered by Henry VIII, and it was printed as an appendix to the Eucharist in the 1549 BCP. Historically, the Litany has been used in ordination rites as well as during Morning and Evening Prayer, before the Eucharist, and even separately. These days, though, it is most often used during Lent because of its penitential nature and often includes an extended procession because of its length.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Children’s Chapel

A Children’s Chapel, including music and a story, is offered for all potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders during the service. To participate, children simply follow the cross in procession to the McCarty Early Learning Center after the reading of the Gospel and then return as a group during the Peace.

Nursery and Restrooms

A **nursery** is available during the service for children through age 2. It is located in the McCarty Early Learning Center across the circular drop off west of the church. **Restrooms** are located in the church office building south of the church.

Sunday Classes for Adults and Children

Sunday classes for adults and children are offered at 10 a.m. Please see the announcements insert for a list of classes and their locations.

GIVING INFORMATION

Offerings can be put in the plate or text SMJAX to 53555 or scan QR code →

PLEDGE

To make a 2026 pledge scan QR code→

Worship Participants

We thank God for those leading worship and pray that all will be blessed in our service today.

Lector

Katie Kidd

Acolytes

Claire Crum, Sam Boozer, Evelyn Dunton, Hadley Surface

Chalice Bearers

Alex Cain, Katie Kidd, Leah Miller, Mary Claire Miller

Ushers

Robb Smith, William Boozer, Eric Cavin, Jason Richards

Verger

Downing Nightingale **LEV** Margaret and Eric Cavin

Altar Guild

Julie Shapiro, Heather Bryant, Darden Grant, Kirsten Hofheimer, Christy Schell, Barbara Stevenson, Courtney Wilder, Mary Lee Willetts, Brooks Whittaker



St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Vision
St. Mark’s is a missional church built at the headwaters of the Gospel where the life and light of Christ flow into our community, our city, and God’s world. (Ps 46:4-5)
+
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Mission
To cultivate generations of servant-leaders rooted in God’s Word and nurtured by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world.



St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
A River of Grace. A Life Abundant.

Welcome! We are delighted to have you join us for worship today! Newcomers, please complete a Connect Card (located in the pew in front of you) so that we can get to know you better. Regular attendees, please use this same card to ensure we have your current contact information. Please note that all page numbers listed in the bulletin preceded by BCP refer to the red Book of Common Prayer in the pews. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Hymn numbers preceded by an “S” (service music) are found near the front of the hymnal.
Information on childcare, restroom locations, and educational offerings is on page 6.

The First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026 - Holy Eucharist - Rite I - 9:00 a.m.

The Word of God

The Congregation will please stand for the Great Litany.

Great Litany BCP 148
The Great Litany will be sung by all responsively as the procession proceeds around the church. The entire text is found beginning on BCP page 148. If you prefer to follow the musical notes, please turn in your Hymnal to S 67, but be aware that this version leaves some of the repeated parts out to save space.

Collect of the Day
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan; Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

