

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

Postlude – Lord, I have sinned

BCP 339

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

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.



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.

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.

Please be seated

First Lesson – Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Sequence Hymn *sung by all*

Lord, who throughout these forty days (*St. Flavian*)

Hymnal 142

Holy Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

After the Gospel reading potty-trained 3-year-olds through 3rd graders are invited to follow the cross to the chapel for Children's Chapel as the congregation sings "Jesus loves me".

Sermon – The Rev. Sandi Kerner

Please stand

Nicene Creed

BCP 326

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Jesus, so lowly

Harold Friedell

Jesus, so lowly, child of the earth: Christen me wholly, bring me new birth. Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad; Teach me that only Love maketh glad. Jesus, so broken, silent and pale; Be this the token Love will not fail. Jesus, victorious, mighty and free; Teach me how glorious death is to be.

Words by Edith Williams; words and music © H. W. Gray

Please stand

Offertory Hymn *sung by all*

Hymnal 149, verse 1

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent, led by your cloud by day, by night your fire, moved by your love and toward your presence bent: far off yet here the goal of all desire.

Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

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.**

The Celebrant continues...

Sanctus *sung by all*

musical setting: Hymnal S 114

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

After the Sanctus you may stand or kneel for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lord's Prayer *said by all*

BCP 333

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem *sung by all*

musical setting: Hymnal S 169

Choir My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.

People **My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.**

Choir Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them.

People **My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, says the Lord.**

Prayer of Humble Access *said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Communion of the People

At Holy Communion, all baptized Christians are welcome to receive. The bread is received in the open palm. Gluten free wafers are available upon request; ask the priest when at the altar rail. The wine may be taken from the cup by drinking (placing your hand on the base to guide it) or by "intinction" (dipping the bread). If you wish to participate but do not want to receive the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you need assistance to the altar rail or if a priest may bring the elements to your pew.

Communion Anthem

Turn thy face from my sins

Thomas Attwood

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Words Psalm 51:9-11; words and music © Public Domain

Communion Hymns *sung by all*

Forty days and forty nights (*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*)

Hymnal 150

Now let us all with one accord (*Bourbon*)

Hymnal 147

Sending out of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors *(when applicable)*

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**