

2nd Sunday in Lent

Praise Service



February 25, 2024 ~ 10:00 am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

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601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor

301-733-7550 www.stmarkslc.org

+ Stand if you are able.

The Praise Team invites everyone to sing along

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ OPENING PRAISE SONG - "Thank You, Jesus For the Blood"

Verse 1

I was a wretch I remember who I was
I was lost I was blind I was running out of
time

Sin separated the breach was far too wide
But from the far side of the chasm
You had me in Your sight

Verse 2

So You made a way across the great
divide
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here
inside
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed
Broke my chains freed my soul
For the first time I had hope

Chorus

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious
light

Verse 3

You took my place laid inside my tomb of
sin
You were buried for three days
But then You walked right out again
And now death has no sting and life has no
end
For I have been transformed by the
blood of the Lamb

Chorus

Bridge

There is nothing stronger
Than (Oh) the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood the blood
(Repeat)

Chorus

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitate on our Lenten journey; we vow to come with you through all the trails and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, be we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross.

+ OPENING PRAISE HYMN - "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

ELW 841

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

+ PRAYER

Lord, be with us on this, the second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, and our hearts. Be with us. Remind us that your love is poured out for all people and that you are never far away. It is in Jesus' Name we pray. **AMEN**

PSALM 22:23-31

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

PRAISE SONG - "We Will Glorify"

We will glorify the King of kings
We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords
Who is the great I Am

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty
We will bow before His throne
We will worship Him in righteousness
We will worship Him alone

He is Lord of heaven Lord of earth
He is Lord of all who live
He is Lord above the universe
All praise to Him we give

Hallelujah to the King of kings
Hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords
Who is the great I Am

READING - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

READING - Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

OFFERING

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, your love for us is so unfathomable. Open our ears to hear the cries of your neediest children. Open our eyes to see human injustice. Open our minds to think about compassion in all circumstances. Continue to increase our willingness to give so that we may lead lives fully focused on ministry to others. We lift up these offerings in gratitude for your guidance and love. In Jesus' name we pray. **AMEN**

+ GOSPEL READING - Mark 8:31-38

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian

+ PRAISE HYMN - "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW 335

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain. | 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain</i>
In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river. | 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. <i>Refrain</i> |

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,

till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

+ CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PRAYERS - Response: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

+ PRAISE HYMN - "The Old Rugged Cross"

Chorus

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest
and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Chorus

In the old rugged cross stained with blood
so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered
and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

Chorus

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far
away
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Chorus

+ BLESSING

May Christ who call you to take up your cross, give you strength to bear your own and one another's burdens. May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourself, and to take up your cross and follow him.

CLOSING PRAISE SONG - "Take Up Your Cross"

Chorus (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Take up your cross ev'ryday
Don't be ashamed to say that you know
Him

Count the cost then take up your cross
And follow Him
Count the cost then take up your cross
And follow Him

Verse (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

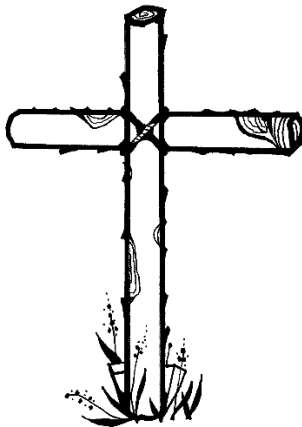
What are you doing for the King
Have you really given ev'rything
For the One who gave His all for you

Don't you be satisfied just to know
That the Lord has saved your soul
Have you forgotten what you need to
do

+ Chorus (ALL, TWICE)

Take up your cross and follow Jesus
Take up your cross ev'ryday
Don't be ashamed to say that you know
Him

Count the cost then take up your cross
And follow Him
Count the cost then take up your cross
And follow Him



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