

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*Lenten Service Bulletin
for Holy Eucharist*

6744 South Kings Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306

703-765-3949 | www.stmarksalex.org

Welcome to St. Mark's. Welcome to Lent.

It is difficult to figure out how to keep a holy Lent. What is wonderful about this important season is that it offers the possibility for real change. The word "lent" comes from an Anglo-Saxon word: *lencton*. It refers to the springtime of the year when the days grow warmer and brighter. So, too, can it be with our souls.

Lent emerged in our history as a season of preparation for those who would be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter. The entire Christian community would walk with those who were about to commit their lives to Christ. In time, this season took on extra layers of meaning and now many associate it with listening for a deeper awareness of how they fall short of the ideals God sets before us and the need for ongoing repentance and amendment of life.

We are grateful you have chosen to spend part of your Lenten journey with us. We are a deeply faithful community seeking to open the door for all to experience God's never-failing love.

The ministers of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
are the People of this parish supported by our Vestry
Jim Bailes, Senior Warden • David Walton, Junior Warden
Eric Bryda, Treasurer • Rob Bluey, Clerk/Register
Belinda Appiah, Charlotte Brown, Francisco Escobar,
Nihal Masih, and Mary Jane Stockstill

and by our staff

Becky Sanders, Parish Administrator
Tatiana Andronikova, Music Director/Choirmaster
Gabriella Elizabeth Pineda, Youth Minister

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

If you are able, please stand for the Opening Sentences.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgive all our sins.

People God's mercy endures forever. Amen.

The celebrant prays the Collect for Purity in the Book of Common Prayer, page 355.

The Celebrant continues with A Penitential Order.

Hear what our Lord Jesus said: You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *(Matthew 22:37-40)*

At the invitation of the Celebrant, we say the Confession of Sin

Together God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

The Celebrant offers Absolution.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the sermon.

Following the sermon and a moment of silence, please stand at the direction of the Minister please stand to say the Nicene Creed.

Together We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Following the Nicene Creed and at the direction of the Intercessor, please kneel for the prayers beginning with

Intercessor Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in your holy Word has taught us to make

prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer to your divine Majesty, asking you to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who confess your holy Name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth your true and lively Word, and rightly administer your holy Sacraments.

And to all your people give your heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here today; that, with meek heart and due reverence, we may hear and receive your holy Word, truly serving you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

We pray to you also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold your gracious hand in all of your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, they may honor you with their lives, and be faithful stewards of your gifts.

And we most humbly pray, O Lord, to comfort and care for all those on our hearts who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Together

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore,

and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless your holy Name for all your servants departed this life praying you to grant them continual growth in your love and service; and give us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Mark and all your saints, that with them we may also enjoy your heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Please stand to exchange The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated at the invitation of the Celebrant following an Offertory Sentence and the setting of the table.

Please stand as the gifts are offered on behalf of the congregation.

The service continues with

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues with prayers until we say

Together Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues the prayer of thanksgiving until all are invited to say together the Lord's Prayer with the words

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together 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.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

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

The Celebrant invites everyone to share in this feast of reconciliation and love.

After everyone has had an opportunity to receive the bread and the wine, at the Celebrant's invitation please sit, kneel or stand to pray

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant offers a Blessing from the altar.

After the ministers leave the altar, a Dismissal is said.

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Resources to help you on your Lenten Journey

Listen:

- KLove Radio 107.3 FM
- WGTS Radio 91.9 FM
- Pray as you Go - pray-as-you-go.org/
- The Bible using YouVersion Bible App - youversion.com/the-bible-app/

Read: The Bible

- The Jewish Annotated New Testament (gives you context)
- New Revised Standard Version (what we use in the Episcopal Church most often)
- The Message (contemporary language)
- Action Bible (written as a graphic novel)
- The Student Bible (lots of reading plans included to help you!)

Meditate and Pray:

- Poems by Mary Oliver
You can start here: bookriot.com/2019/01/16/mary-oliver-poems/
(She also reads some of her poetry)
- Poems by Wendell Barry
You can start here: onbeing.org/poetry/the-peace-of-wild-things/
- Henri Nowen
You can start here: *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*

Watch: Videos from The Bible Project

- Sacrifice and Atonement: bibleproject.com/explore/sacrifice-atonement/

- How to Read the Bible: bibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/
- Books of the Bible (especially Romans and Ephesians for Lent)

For the Family:

- Activities from Feels Like Home Blog: feelslikehomeblog.com – search Lent
- Try Using Sacrifice Beans: catholicicing.com – search Sacrifice Beans
- Read *Jesus Today Devotions* by Sarah Young
- Make a Lenten Cross: catholicicing.com – search Lenten Cross with Candles

Attend:

- Pohick Episcopal Church's Wednesday Evening Speaker Series
- Olivet Episcopal Church's Friday Evening Suppers
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Sunday Evening Dinner and Lenten Conversation

During this Lenten season the sermons will examine more closely St. Mark's mission statement: Opening the Door to Christ's Love.

For 2020, the leadership of St. Mark's will focus our efforts of time, talent, and treasure on four specific areas: Formation, Facility, Finances, and Friendships.

Formation includes everything about our Sunday experience from the worship services, the music we sing, the children's programs, our youth and young adults, and any educational offerings. Forming disciples on Sundays is where we will concentrate our efforts for right now. Eventually, our Formation will expand to weekday Bible Studies and an Alpha program to help anyone and everyone learn more about Jesus.

Our **Facility** has had some major upgrades and improvements and for that we give great thanks. But the space would work better if it were a bit softer and warmer. We also share our facility with many other groups. The focus here will be everyone working together to make St. Mark's an inviting place to worship and be.

It is not a surprise that St. Mark's lives with fewer financial resources than we would like. But that doesn't mean we have a Theology of Scarcity. Far from it! We will be looking for ways to improve our **Finances** for a strong and healthy future.

Friendships are where we will put most of our efforts. That means making St. Mark's accessible through modern and inviting communication vehicles, improving our online presence, and inviting more people to worship with us on Sundays. We want our Friends to become Family at St. Mark's Church.

Join us (and bring a friend!) as we consider the many ways we can share the unconditional, never-ending love of God. Please ask yourself how you can be a part of these important conversations and ministries. How is God calling you to serve? What can you do to open the door to Christ's love?