



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025



***Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community***

200 Longwood Drive SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

256.539.4361 | stmarkshsv.org | [@stmarkshsv](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshsv)

In Worship Today...

Blessed By Joy: Lost Sheep & Coin

Prelude: Choral Dorian; Jehan Alain

Welcome | Gathering Song: **Stand in Your Love**

Confession and Forgiveness | **Joyous Light of Glory** ELW 230 | Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Psalm 119:167-176 *Pew Bible* p.497

Gospel Acclamation: **Lenten** ELW p.189 | Luke 15:1-10 *Pew Bible* p.850

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound** ELW 779

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy** ELW p. 207

Distribution: **Clean** | Behold the Lamb – Choir

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Lead Me, Guide Me** ELW 768

Dismissal | Postlude: Jesus, Still Lead On arr. Paul Manz

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Larry Partesotti | Lector: Julie Satterfeal | Acolyte: Zach Gastler

Ushers: Andy Sieja & Andrew Wirtz | Tech Volunteer: Rodney Hutchins

Communion Assistants: Zach Gastler, Madelyn Vandeveire, Louise Boller, Haiden White

Coffee Host: Dennis Fakes

St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

Where Did The Alleluia Go?

Throughout the Church year, we prepare to hear the gospel reading with a sung Gospel Acclamation. During the season of Lent, however, the Gospel Acclamation is a bit different from the rest of the year. In Lent, a season of penitence and self-reflection, churches traditionally shift away from exuberant praise, opting instead for a more reflective song. "Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord" or "Return to the Lord, your God" are common Lenten themes for the Gospel Acclamation. As we sing these words together, we prepare our hearts and minds to receive God's word with a mirror turned on ourselves, examining our need for a Savior. At Easter, the Gospel Acclamation returns to its usual focus, singing praise to the God who has saved us in endless love.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to sponsor a potted plant to decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning? Plants will vary depending on availability; past flowers have included tulips, a variety of lilies, hyacinths, and geraniums. Each sponsorship is \$15. Please use an available "flower envelope" to place in the offering plate or online via St. Mark's giving page. Everyone is welcome to take their plants home following the worship service on Easter morning.

By the Numbers: March 16, 2025

Attendance

In Person Worship: 129 | Online Views: 55

Child & Youth Sunday School: 6 | Adult Sunday School: 19

Lenten Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6:30pm Worship: 44

General Offerings Last Week

Last Week: \$21,494 | YTD: \$147,689 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:



This Week We are Praying for...

Astronauts who explore the vastness of the cosmos, and for safe return of astronauts from the International Space Station | Areas of the world impacted by ongoing violence especially Palestine and those mourning the death of loved ones in the wake of renewed attacks | St. Mark's Board of Property for their caretaking and maintenance of the church | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Margot, Dorothy, Ciera, Carrie, Suzy, Frank, Mija, the family of Marge Killian, and the family of Joyce Brown.

A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows sent weekly on Wednesday; if you would like to receive this email, please contact prayer@stmarkshsv.org Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.

Greeter & Usher Training Today!

Following worship today, anyone who would like to be, or is currently, a greeter or an usher is invited to attend a training meeting in the sanctuary. Can't make it today? We have one next week (March 30) as well! If you would like to volunteer for any other worship assistant positions, there are sign ups available in Communication Central.

Lenten Dinner & Worship

We invite you to join us for a new Lenten mid-week experience! On Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9, we will gather around the table to share a meal and worship together in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be at 6pm and flow into worship at 6:30. If you would like to help with dinner, a sign-up is available in Communication Central.

Church Work Day

Time to do some sprucing up! Hosted by the Board of Property, join us for a church work day on Saturday, March 29 from 9am - 1pm. Anyone with a pressure washer, rake, shovel, pruning shears, or wheelbarrow, your help would be greatly appreciated! Lunch will be provided. In case of rain or other inclement weather, we'll reschedule for Saturday, April 12. If you plan on coming, please sign up in Communication Central.

Community Free Lunch

No foolin' - St. Mark's is providing a free lunch to the community on Tuesday, April 1 from 11am - 1pm...just because! Stop by for a hot dog, sides, and a drink. Sit and eat in the sunshine or if you're in a hurry, get it to go. All for free - while supplies last.

Summer Camp Registration

Already making summer plans? Consider adding a summer camp (or two!) to your calendar! For 6th grade - college sophomores, spend a week at AFFIRM (June 15 -20), a youth event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod that St. Mark's youth and staff attend each year. For kiddos aged 4-11, St. Mark's offers TWO different day camps (June 23 - 27 AND July 14 -18) full of crafts, service projects, Bible stories, games, silly songs, and more! Scan this QR code to register and learn more!



St. Mark's Staff

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