



The Story is Not Over

Luke 24:13-35

A SERVICE OF THE WORD “Third Sunday of Easter”

April 23, 2023

St. James/St. Mark’s United Church of Christ

Rev. Kim Henning, Guest Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist Kathy Jurk, Choir Director

Jacob Grunwald, St. Mark’s Reader

If we pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” then we will want to work to arrange the world to resemble as closely that world in which we fully expect to inhabit in eternity. We want the world here, today, to look very much like the world we long to inhabit for an inestimably long period of time. Our final destiny, the goal of it all, where our world is heading is subsumed in a world, ‘heaven.’

William Willimon

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE:

The Lord's My Shepherd

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

The Spirit of God invites us into the sacred act of worship.

In this world of politics, business, and commerce.

We lift our hearts and thoughts toward God.

In this world of athletics, education, and entertainment.

We remember God who is from everlasting to everlasting.

The Spirit of God invites us into the sacred act of worship:

An act that proclaims the sovereignty of God;

An act that insists upon our humility;

An act that challenges us to be still and know that “God is God”;

An act that stirs us to sing alleluia to the God of our salvation.

Come and pray with me,

Lord Jesus, stay with us, the night is past and the day is at hand. Be our companion along The Way. Kindle our hearts with fervor. Awaken within us a passion for justice and kindness. And grant that we may behold the wonder of your Holy Love. Amen.

Hymn:

#23 (Worship and Rejoice); #15 (The Hymnal)

All Creatures of Our God and King

Young At Heart:



Seeing What Our Eyes Cannot See

Prayer of Confession:

As ones who seek to follow the way of Jesus, I invite you to pray with me.....

God, you have come to us in Jesus of Nazareth. As we come now before you, we bring what is most important: our repentance. It is not easy to repent. The words, “I’m sorry” are difficult to speak. But we do need to repent because we are sinners. We repent of our pride that somehow causes us to think we are better than others. We repent of our greed that somehow believes “what is mine is mine and what is yours is yours.” And we repent of our need to lord ourselves over others. In Jesus, you have come to us as a Servant. We pray, O God, that our hearts might be broken open before you as we recognize our need for mercy. May the power of your cross may make all things new through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you so that you may be revered.

Heal, O God, the wounds within us that just don't seem to go away.

Speak to us of your steadfast love.

Renew us with your Holy Spirit.

We pray in the name of your Son who was crucified and resurrected.

Amen.

Response:

I Love Your Kingdom, God

549 (Worship and Rejoice); # 329 (The Hymnal)

Psalm 27:

(Psalm 27 is a psalm of trust; the psalmist has no fear of enemies in the protective refuge of the Temple. The psalmist understands that God makes a huge difference in the way we live life.)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

The New Testament:

I Peter 1:17-23

(Something quite powerful has happened through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the epistle you're about to hear, Peter urges the church to discern its strength and hope through faith.)

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

St. James Hymn:

169 (The Hymnal)

*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain***St. Mark's Anthem:***My Redeemer***THE GOSPEL:**

Luke 24:13-35 NRSV

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then

enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon:

Endless Easter

Pastoral Prayer and Lords 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering:

For the offerings, gifts, and tithes given both before and after the service; for the offerings made on-line and through Tithely; for the gifts of your time, talents, prayers, support and encouragement in furtherment of this church's ministry and mission – we thank you.

Offertory Music:

I Cast all my Cares

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Doxology:

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Offertory Prayer:

Please pray with me,

All good gifts come from you, O God. You give us life. You give us this world with its green fields, its flowing streams, and its fertile soil. You give us hope, love and joy. And now, O God, we give to you and your ministry in and beyond this church. Please receive our gifts. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn:

Be Not Afraid

No. 430 (Worship and Rejoice)

**You shall cross the barren desert but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands all will understand
You shall see the face of God and live.**

**Refrain: Be not afraid. I go before you always
Come, follow me and I will give you rest**

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown
If you walk amid the burning flames you shall not be harmed
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side
Know that I am with you through it all. (Refrain)**

**Blessed are your poor for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me
Blessed..... blessed are you! (Refrain)**

Benediction:

Postlude:



Lift High the Cross

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:
St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*April 23rd – Karen Mansker, Mark Stolzmann
24th – Kenneth Dirks, Erick Heling, Sarah Lutze
28th – Abby Herrmann*

ANNIVERSARIES:

*April 23rd– Bruce & Karen Mansker
28th - Jack & Wendy Schnelle
29th – Ron & Sue Vandoske*

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – will begin Monday, April 24th with two sessions, 10:00am and 5:00pm.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 25th . Email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Wednesday, April 26th, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Wednesday, April 26th, 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH & CONFIRMATION CLASS PARTICIPANTS are invited to attend an outing together Saturday, April 29 at Get Air Trampoline Park in Green Bay. We will leave from St. Mark's parking lot at 2:00, jump for two hours, then return back to St. Mark's parking lot around 6:00. It takes about 50 minutes to get there. Please RSVP by the evening of April 23rd so I can make transportation arrangements sufficient for the number attending. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Schultz at schultzbrenda@gmail.com.

**St. James Brat Fry –
Carry-Outs Only, Wednesday, May 10th, 4-7pm
brats, hamburgers, chicken, tortes**

Mission Trip Fundraiser:

Available to Purchase: Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards and Seroogy Candy Bars



Round Table Meetings from the Mission & Vision Team:

The Mission/Vision team has been meeting the first Saturday of every month since November 2022. The primary goal of this team is to collaboratively develop two areas of focus and commitment and put them into meaningful words which will steer our actions. This team will focus on a mission statement and core values providing further definition of whom we are as a church, what our vision and direction are as the local church; and a missions assessment process that evaluates pastoral ministry, church ministry, and church leadership ministry.

You will have received your first Ministry Assessment survey (either electronically or via hardcopy – mailed) regarding the ministries of our church. These surveys are to help determine the areas we excel in, and the areas we need to focus on. It also solicits your input with where you see the church and church ministries headed.

We have set dates for round table meetings, small group gatherings following worship services, for any who wants to talk with the team directly.

My friends, we need your input. While this is Christ's church, Christ has made each of us stewards of St. Mark's and St. James. You will be an integral part of developing the mission statement and core values which will help guide us into the future. The same core values and mission statement will also shape our ministry and missions now. We hope you can make one of the meetings.

St. James: April 23 and May 7th following worship. Clarence Belitz, Jason Riesterer, and Deb La Duke will be leading the discussion.

St. Mark's: April 30th and May 7th following worship. Sandy Perronne and Bruce Mansker will be leading the discussion.

Pastor Patrick will attend the meetings as his worship schedule allows.

Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your input.

The Mission and Vision Team!

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

*****Sunday School 9-10am at both churches*****

St. Mark's UCC

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***