

## Wednesday March 17, 2021



**SAINT MARK**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Outline is on our website
- Theme this week: Again and Again We are reformed
- Easter Garden flowers – Last day to order is Sunday March 21

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Every week is a new week, another chance to say:

**All:** “Here I am. Use me.”

L: Every day is a new day, another chance to say:

**All:** “Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow.”

L: Every hour is a new hour, another chance to say,

**All:** “Again and again, make me new.”

L: We do not come to this place to stay the same.

**All:** We come to this place to be changed.

L: So let us worship holy God, who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **POEM:** Keep Digging

I can feel change inside of me. It’s a slow burn.

Change usually starts out hot—Defensive and angry,

A self-righteous blanket Of, “I am right and here’s why . . .”

I wrap it around my shoulders Like a barricade.

I fight the temptation to lean forward, To play the challenger,

To argue with confidence. But in time, Almost always,

The heat fades. The air leaves the balloon. The audacity of it all

Starts to wear off. And eventually, What I am left with

Is myself And a big, open sky.

It’s colder here. It’s quieter. I can hear my thoughts.

And in this big, wide openness I am able to say out loud,

“Maybe I wasn’t right. Maybe I need to learn. Maybe it’s time for change.

Maybe that’s okay.” And if I’m quiet, and if I’m paying attention,

I can usually hear God whisper inside of me,

“Good work, my child. Now keep digging.”

### **SCRIPTURE:** John 12: 20-22

“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.”

**SONG:** In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324, v.1 and 3

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

### REFLECTION

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe that flowers need the rain.

We believe that humans need community.

We believe that bodies need rest.

We believe that hearts need connection.

We believe that mornings need sunrise.

We believe that seasons need change.

We believe that grief needs space.

We believe that change needs time.

We believe that love needs security.

We believe that pain needs art.  
We believe that joy needs company.  
We believe that our spirits need God.  
Again and again, our spirits need God.  
Fortunately for us, we trust that  
God is here.  
God is at work in our lives.  
God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen

**PRAYER:**

Holy God,  
You are right in front of me. So often we are face to face, and  
yet so often I miss it! I want to recognize you, but more than  
that, I want to walk with you. I want to eat with you. I want  
to rejoice with you. You are on the loose—out in the world.  
Thanks be to God. I will keep my eyes open. Amen.

**SENDING:**

God of open doors, Open arms, and open conversations,  
We know deep in our souls that you are forever inviting us in.  
Again and again, you invite us to take another step closer,  
Another step deeper, Another step further,  
In this journey of faith. So with your invitation in our hands,  
We pray for strength and wisdom.  
Show us the next right step in this journey.  
We are here. You are here. This is holy ground.  
May this holy Lenten journey begin Once again.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.