

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 19, 2023

*Welcome to
St. Mark's and St. John's*

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe".

Feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table where there are weekly activity bulletins, crayons, etc...

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15am.

*As always, the link to our live-recorded YouTube channel is available on our website,
stmarksandstjohns.org*

PRELUDE

Instrumental

OPENING MUSIC

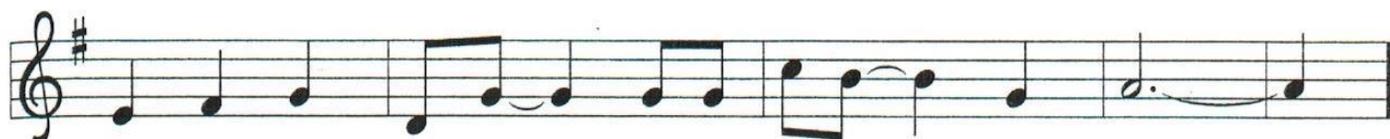
"We are Called"



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: **God's mercy endures forever.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious God whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of First Samuel, the sixteenth chapter...

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and

brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: The King of Love My Shepherd (based on Psalm 23)



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the book of Ephesians, the fifth chapter...

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: **Thanks be to God.**



LENTEN HYMN

"Softly and Tenderly"



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,



1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's



1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —



Come home, come home,



Ye who are wea-ry, come home! — Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home! —

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This

man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know

where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

CREED FOR LENT

Patmos Abbey – The Order of Saint Columba

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Celebrant: Let us turn back toward God by confessing our sins.

People: **Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name.**

Celebrant: By water and the Holy Spirit, God has given us new birth, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION *Please be seated*

You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please stand

You are within us and among us, O Christ, as the one who is alive for ever. In the sorrows and sufferings of our lives you are with us as the one who holds the keys of new beginnings. There is no ending in the world, there is no fear in our lives, there is no despair in our hearts, that your living presence cannot unlock.

Brief silence.

You heal what is broken and make all things new. Give peace to those impacted by fires, floods, and earthquakes. Help us to find ways to act on our convictions that where there are people suffering we will find ways to provide help.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, make your presence known throughout your church in all its different forms. Guide preachers and teachers to proclaim the work you do in this and every place.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You created the earth and all it contains. Send rain and snow to parched places so that plants and animals thrive. Direct us to be good stewards of all that you create.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us as your children and comfort us in our afflictions. Bring patience to the distressed, compassion to the grieving, and relief to the suffering. We pray especially today for...

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You give us examples of Christ-like living through the witness of the faithful departed. As your beloved called on the name of Jesus throughout their lives, inspire us to call upon him in joy and in need.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Rejoicing in your glory revealed to the world, we offer these and all our prayers to you, O God of our salvation, through Christ our light. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY

"I Know You are Near"

Eucharistic Ministers bring the elements and offering to the altar.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Yah-weh, I know You are near, stand-ing al-ways at my side. You guard me from the foe. And You lead me in ways e-ver-last-ing." The word "Fine" is written above the final staff. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes tied across bar lines.

Yah-weh, I know You are near, stand-ing

al - ways at my side. You

guard me from the foe. And You lead me in

Fine

ways e - ver - last - ing.

1. Lord, — You have searched my heart, and You
 2. Where — can I run from Your love? If I

1. know when I sit and when I stand. Your —
 2. climb to the heav - ens You are there; If I

1. hand is up - on me pro - tect - ing me from death,
 2. fly to the sun - rise or sail be - yond the sea,

1. keep - ing me from harm. —————
 2. still I'd find You there. —————

D.C.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.



It is right to glorify you
and to give you thanks, our holy and living God;
you dwell in light inaccessible
from before time and forever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice
in the splendor of your radiance.

Therefore, we join in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death, you looked with favor upon your willing servant Mary, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners. He healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

**“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said:

**“Drink this all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, as we remember Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth, and make us your new creation.

**By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Version used at Food Shelf Eucharist - 2019

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father in Heaven,

remind us constantly that you are parent to all your children.

Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come,

establishing peace and justice, hope and life for all people.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Make us aware of the needs of others.

Forgive us our sins,

our pride and our prejudices.

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

especially keep our hearts and minds open to see the good in others.

Deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, *Just and true,*

The power, *gentle and fair,*

And the glory, *filled with the promise of peace.*

Are yours forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast

FRACTURE ANTHEM

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Music and lyrics by Taizé

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace." The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords and rests.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

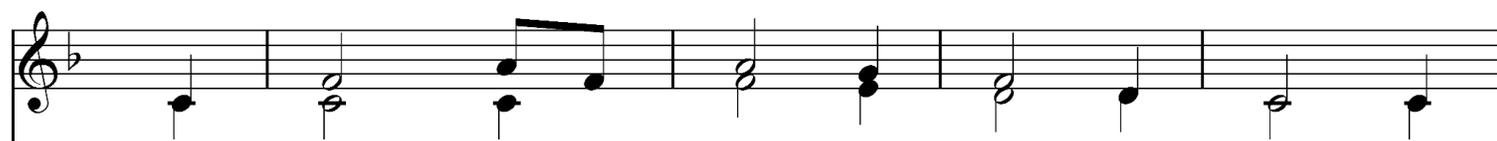
Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

ALL are welcome to receive communion. Please be seated. Our Eucharistic Ministers will come to you. As they approach, please stand if you are able. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms in front of you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

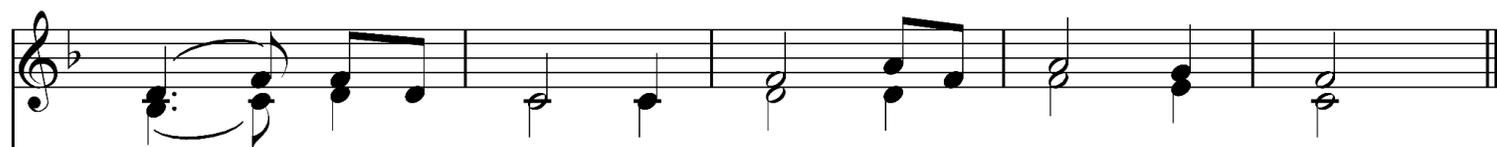
"Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
* 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



1 now am - found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us on our Lenten pilgrimage;
may our fasting bring a hunger for justice;
our gifts and yearning for peace;
and our prayer the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

St. Mark's & St. John's Staff

Rector: The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen

crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director: Maria Hartz

mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician: Andy Lacey

andrewlacey20@gmail.com

Audio and Video Producer: Robert Thornton

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev'd Mike Finn

wetlandnomad88@gmail.com

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens: Michele Holmes & Walt Snyder

Vestry Members: Bob Caruso (Clerk), Samantha Glarner, Ella Gruel, Theresa Harte, Sharon Kowalski, Nancy Ramsay, and Ginnie Schindler

Diocesan Delegates: Nancy Willer, Ella Gruel, and Deb Snyder

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Terri Censak

SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR (3/20/23-3/26/2023)

Monday

6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Online)

Tuesday

Afternoon Freedom Scholars After School Program

Wednesday

10:30-12pm Food Shelf (*Maria & Nancy R.*)

12 pm YouTube Healing Service

Thursday

Afternoon Freedom Scholars After School Program

Saturday

10 am-Noon Episcopal 101 Session

Sunday

8:15 am Handbell Rehearsal

9:15 am Worship w/ Eucharist & Baptism

10:15 am *Celtic Spirituality* Book Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Book Club (Lent): Join Pastor Cindy following worship on Sundays during Lent as we read *Celtic Ways to Pray: Finding God in the Natural Elements* by Ruth Lindberg Pattison. Available on Amazon (paperback or Kindle).

Where is God when we pray? Artist and priest Ruth Pattison looks to the legacy of Celtic spirituality to say God is in all of creation that surrounds us – earth, fire, water, air – and not up in the clouds. She invites the reader into a grounded spirituality rooted deep in Celtic tradition that sees everything as infused with the Spirit – including humanity.

Handbell Ensemble is an ongoing music ministry opportunity! We will be playing every fourth Sunday of the month. Our next time ringing will be next Sunday at 8:15 for rehearsal before Worship!

Healing Sundays - on the second Sunday of each month the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil during communion will be offered.

Altar Guild - we would love your help in setting up the altar and making sure the sanctuary is adorned for the appropriate season and celebration. If you are interested in learning more talk to Mary Estey.

Holy Week is approaching! Services will be held the following dates/times:

Palm Sunday - 9:15 am Worship

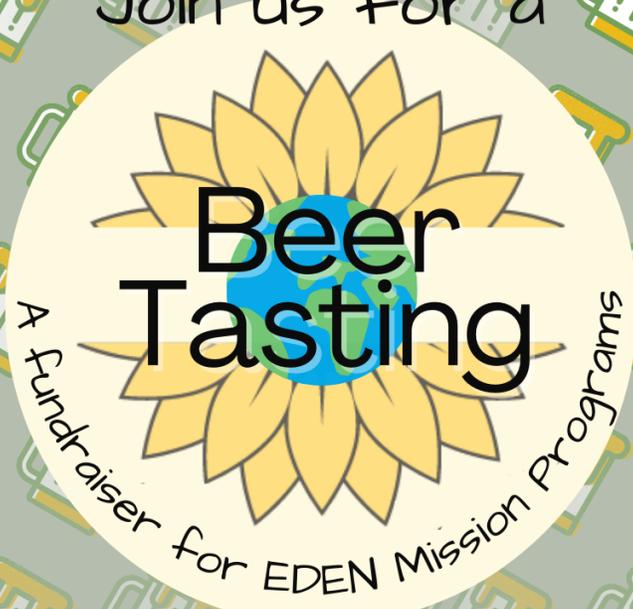
Maundy Thursday - 5:30 pm Worship and Agape Supper

Good Friday - 12:10 pm Worship

Holy Saturday - 10 am Adorning the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday - 9:15 am Worship with Special Music

Join us for a



Beer Tasting

A fundraiser for EDEN Mission Programs

Friday, April 21 | 7 pm

\$30 ticket includes 5 tastings, food, and raffle tickets!
 Purchase tickets online at bit.ly/SMSJBeer2023
 1245 Culver Road | Rochester, NY | 14609

2ND ANNUAL ROCHESTER SEED SWAP



Egerton R-Center
41 Backus Street

March 31st
5-7pm

Free
admission

ASL Interpretation
provided

Garden & nature activities "Ask a Master Gardener" table Light snacks

Everyone is encouraged to bring seeds home, even (especially!) if you don't have a single seed to offer.

Brought to you by:



Worship Leaders of January-May 2023

Date	First Lesson and Psalm	Second Lesson	Prayers of the People
3/19 <small>Lent IV</small>	Mary Ellen F.	Tom F.	Deb S.
3/26 <small>Lent V</small>	Bob C.	Heather G.	Terri C.
4/2 <small>Palm Sunday</small>	Qhamora K.	Walt S.	Steve F.
4/9 <small>EASTER</small>	Bob V.	Mary E.	Deb S.
4/16 <small>Easter II</small>	Heather G.	Michele H.	Nancy W.
4/23 <small>Easter III</small>	Paula V.	Terri C.	Mary E.
4/30 <small>Easter IV</small>	Michele H.	Dave E.	Heather G.
5/7 <small>Easter V</small>	Tom F.	Joe C.	Paula V.
5/14 <small>Easter VI</small>	Bob C.	Sharon K.	Nancy W.

Date	Hold Cup Tray	Give Single Cup	Collect Cups
3/19 Lent IV	Heather G.	Mary Ellen F.	Terri C.
3/26 Lent V	Sharon K.	Michele H.	Joe C.
4/2 Palm Sunday	Theresa H.	Nancy W.	Bob C.
4/9 EASTER	Tom F.	Sharon K.	Terri C.
4/16 Easter II	Nancy W.	Bob C.	Sharon K.
4/23 Easter III	Mary Ellen F.	Deb S.	Nancy W.
4/30 Easter IV	Dave E.	Joe C.	Bob C.
5/7 Easter V	Mary Ellen F.	Heather G.	Michele H.
5/14 Easter VI	Dave E.	Nancy W.	Mary E.



**ST. MARK'S &
ST. JOHN'S**



**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
E.D.E.N. MISSIONS BY GOING TO:**

STMARKSANDSTJOHNS.ORG