



the welcome place.

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Bulletin**  
**Sunday, February 1, 2026**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* (ELW 873)**

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,**

**who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? (Cain) (W&P 7)***

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? (Cain) (W&P 7)*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *We Are Called* (ELW 720)

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING *Give Thanks* (W&P 41)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)**

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 our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION**



**LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 154)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**SONG DURING COMMUNION *Blest Are They* (ELW 728)**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✝ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (ELW 669)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**PREACHER / PRESIDER** ..... The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey  
**MUSICIAN** ..... Brian Tracey  
**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT** ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree  
**LECTOR** ..... Bramblee Bird

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR:** The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey      **SCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Melisa McDaid  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Faith Woodward      **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Alice Kaplan

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Today ..... Worship Service ..... 10 AM  
Wednesday ..... Bible Study ..... 7 PM  
Sunday ..... Worship Service ..... 10 AM  
Sunday ..... Annual Congregational meeting ..... 11:15 AM

## Announcements

Please plan to stay after worship **next Sunday, February 8**, for the **ANNUAL MEETING** which was rescheduled due to the snowstorm.

**AT THE TABLE WITH GOD** - Join us at 7 pm on Thursdays in Lent as we explore themes of food and fellowship in the Bible. We'll begin with a potluck dinner - sign up in the Narthex to let us know what you're bringing.

Thinking about becoming a member of St. Mark? Just curious about what it means to be Lutheran? Then the **NEW (AND/OR) CURIOUS MEMBERS SESSIONS** are for you! Sign up in the narthex or email Pr. Kevin if you're interested in attending one or all of the sessions.

The sign-up sheets for 2026 **DEDICATIONS for ALTAR FLOWERS** are on the table in the Narthex. Now is your chance to reserve a date for dedicating altar flowers or the Eternal Flame Candle to a loved one or special occasion.

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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