



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JANUARY 29, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GATHERING

Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance.

The Offering will be brought forward by the ushers during the Offertory Anthem.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Prelude on ‘I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light’”

Tune by Kathleen Thomerson; Organ setting by Wayne L. Wold

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn “I Want to Walk as a Child of Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain:*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M 1970, 1975 Celebration

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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.

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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Judy Frye, lector

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the

Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For 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. ⁵O 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.” ⁶“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? ⁷Will 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?” ⁸He 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 15

Amy Woodall, Micah Hein, cantors

Psalm 15:1 (Ronald A. Nelson) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



¹O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? ²Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; ³who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; ⁴in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; ⁵who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Judy Frye, lector

¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider 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. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice 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.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Blessed are you”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Let Streams of Living Justice ” ELW 710

THAXTED

1. Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom’s light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry’s hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow’r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people’s hour.
2. For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

3. Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way-the path untried;
your truth-the heart of stranger; your life-the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 © 1989 William Whitla; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

The Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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.**

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

(Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant)

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Living Lord of the Good News, we should always be in the act of studying the Word to increase or strengthen our faith. Many have grown up in the church and have felt what having faith has done in their lives. Why would we not want to be surrounded by that feeling and to be with others that also believe and have this same love of the faith community? Lord, in a time when other people tend to replace worship time in church and gathering with familiar believers, we know that it does not have to be this way. If there ever was a time when this church, this nation, and the world need to be connected, it is now. Please strengthen our church and renew our commitments. We are called to be witnesses to the Gospel to share and spread the Living Good News. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of Creation, the entire cosmos and all the earth bear witness to your creative and steadfast love. Inspire us with reverence and awe as we tread this earth, so that using its resources, we might always sustain and share the abundance you have created for all peoples and nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of peace, as we are continually given breaking news of yet more senseless violence and crimes against humanity, we are saddened and feel helpless to feel safe in going to our everyday activities. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." With the guidance of Jesus, we lift up in prayer all persons, families and communities that have been innocent victims of these violent acts of evil. Lord, prepare us each day in our struggles so we look for safety in our faith and trust in Jesus. We need your greatness and power and glory to draw us into vigilant action and collective healing prayers to keep us away from feeling helpless and hopeless. Heal this country of radical acts of violence and give us peace.

Merciful God,
recieve our prayer.

Lord of Life, you call blessed all whom the world regards as foolish, weak, low, and despised, and you reveal your strength in weakness. Bless the sick and the dying, and strengthen all who care for them. Grant strength and wisdom to all in need; we especially remember, Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Betty Lentz, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Helen Howard, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, and Marilyn Creech. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Guiding Lord, you have gifted us with the Bible that encompasses many guidelines on how to live, to teach and to grow in our Christian faith. From the time we were baptized, our families made promises to train us up in the way we should go. We are given to learn all of the cornerstones of faith so that we can carry our baptism through all of our years so that when we are older we will not turn away from the wisdom and roots of our faith. Guide our prayers in order to instill Christ's values into the hearts of all children and non-believers that are part of our lives. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of Hosts, We praise you for the blessed saints of every time and place whom you accompanied in poverty, persecution, and in every trial. Abide with us as we seek to follow Jesus. May we also rejoice and find gladness in the promise of your kingdom revealed in Jesus. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Peace *(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING *(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)*

Please be seated.

Anthem "Christus Paradox" (You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd)

Based on French carol PICARDY;

Arrangement for choir and organ by Alfred V. Fedak

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave. You the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave. Clothed in light upon the

mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, shining in eternal glory, beggar's by a soldier's toss, you, the everlasting instant; you, who are both gift and cost. You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side. You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide. You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide. Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ! Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife. You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life. Alleluia.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

“Blessed Are They” ELW 728

BLESSED ARE THEY

Text & Music: David Haaz, b. 1957, © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Come and taste the joy of God!

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by "Communion Kit" or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a "kit" please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music “Lamb of God” from *Holy Communion Setting Eleven*

O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up - on us.
O Lamb . . of God, you . . take a - way the
sin of the world; . . . have . . mer - cy up -
on us, have . . . mer - cy up - on us.
Grant us your peace. A - men.

“Duo” from *Suite du Premier Ton*

Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

“How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them” from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

Delenn Rumbolo, soprano

*How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” ELW 873

MARION

1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2. With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*
3. With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain*
4. Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,
as pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.; Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata” on ‘Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart’

Organ setting by Flor Peeters

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Lisa Barnette; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Judy Frye; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Kenneth Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Jackie Ellington; communion assistants: Kevin & Karen Feezor, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Janice Miller; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Alan Harms, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark's Choir, Amy Woodall, Micah Hein, cantors; Delenn Rumbolo, soprano soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer: tbd; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team A; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, Chris Stevenson, Brooks Stevenson, Gretchen Payne, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Diane Thomas

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Parish News

From the pastor -

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 22). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, hinting at the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (February 19), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, again hinting at the gift of his Spirit which dwells in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary day disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Annual Meeting Today. St. Mark's Annual Meeting will be held today following the 10:30 service. Annual Report booklets are available in the Gathering Place.

ROOM IN THE INN We are concentrating on only the month of February to host 10 homeless men each Tuesday. Volunteers will be needed to supply dinner, breakfast and bag lunches each week, and especially night sitters and van drivers. **Please sign up** in the Gathering Place. **NEEDED - TRAVEL SIZE MEN'S DEODORANT .**

Volunteers needed to answer the phone at the front desk, Monday-Wednesday, 10 am to 2 pm. Please call or email if you would like to help. Thank you!

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at **Malaya Kitchen** in The Arboretum Shopping Center on **February 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM.** Malaya Kitchen moved from Uptown to the Arboretum pre-pandemic due to CPCC expansion. The address is **8200-400 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28277.** The cuisine is pan-Asian, and the components are quite recognizable, with individualized customer-control over any excursions of flavoring. The menu is extensive, with all recipes tuned over the years to local preferences. The atmosphere is casual and friendly. Come join the fun, and bring a friend to share the experience! All people are welcome. Please **RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by the Sunday afternoon** before the Dinner (contact the church office). We look forward to seeing many of you at Malaya Kitchen.

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. Explore the life

and faith of C. S. Lewis each Sunday at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. Examine Lewis's experiences with doubt, conversion, grief, and joy and how to apply those lessons today. Professor Michael Ward leads this video course based on Lewis's classic writings beginning 1/8.

"Hybrid Worship" is both in-person and online] worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this] pandemic.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please] volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Stewardship

2023 Stewardship Appeal

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



2023 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

Loaves and Fishes Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Youth and Family Ministry

Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Announcements

Open Eyes Help Everyone! If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

AA meets Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Notes

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815 This hymn and tune were written by Kathleen Thomerson (b.1934). She considers this hymn to be a scriptural meditation and prayer on the subject of light. Revelation 21 is one example of a biblical passage with the theme of light: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light". **HOUSTON** is the tune, and takes its name from Church of the Redeemer in Houston, Texas, the first place this hymn was sung, and the family church of Kathleen Thomerson.

"Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW 710 William Whitla (b.1934), a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, wrote this hymn in 1989. It was first published in a collection of hymns *Sing Justice! Do Justice!* The author writes: "*I wrote this hymn just after the events in Tiananmen Square, and when the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina were bringing their campaign to the conscience of the world. At the same time, the religious and racial disputes in Ireland, Israel-Palestine, the Congo and other parts of Africa, and in Canada and many other countries over First Nation or Aboriginal rights all seemed impossible to solve. Unfortunately, similar events are still replayed, and only too-similar images in the Near East, Iraq, Afghanistan, and now Somalia--recur and are now extended well beyond those earlier sad happenings. So, I used some images from those events in verse one, to tell the bad news before the Good News of final two verses*". The tune **THAXTED** was composed by Gustav Holst (1874-1934) and comes from his orchestral piece *The Planets* where it is the theme for "Jupiter." Holst lived in Thaxted, Essex, England for most of his life.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophet named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child and his words have become the "*Nunc dimittis*" ("Now you dismiss") sung after Holy Communion, describing Jesus as "light for the nations."

February 3, Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden (801-865)

"The Apostle of the North," Ansgar was a monk who led a mission to Denmark and later to Sweden, where he built the first Christian church. His work ran into difficulties with the rulers of the day, and he was forced to withdraw into Germany. In 832 he was appointed bishop of Hamburg, and in 848 of Bremen. In 852 Ansgar returned to Birka in Sweden and worked to establish good relations with King Olaf I. He later helped consecrate the first bishop of Sweden, Gautbert.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Betty Lentz, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple, Greg Bruce, Jamie Bates, Helen Howard, Henry & Sharon Vander Voort, Jimmy Schwartz, Larry Marko, and Marilyn Creech.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 2/5/2023, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
*Light shines in the darkness
for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Birthdays

1/30 Janice Simpson
1/30 Christopher Miller
2/3 Scott Howarth
2/3 Charles Lakeman



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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