



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



JANUARY 26, 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY / LECTIONARY 3

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

In today's gospel Jesus reads from Isaiah, proclaiming good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophets always revealing God's favor to the weak and the vulnerable. As Paul writes, the church is one body with many members, and we give honor to the weaker members of the body, suffering with those who suffer, and rejoicing with those who are lifted up.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Improvisation on ‘Let Streams of Living Justice’”

Tune THAXTED by Gustav Holst
Organ setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn

“O Zion, Haste” ELW 668

ANGELIC SONGS

1. O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain: Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

2. Publish to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation
and died on earth that we might live above.
3. He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him,
make known to ev'ry heart his saving grace;
let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him,
through your neglect, unfit to see his face. *refrain*

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923; Music: James Walsh, 1837-1901

Please be seated.

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 creates us, redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Remembering the waters of Holy Baptism, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
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.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie

“O Lord, Have Mercy” from *Holy Communion Setting Eleven*

Jack Richardson, cantor

Leader




Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for

whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 19

Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, cantors

Psalm 36:8 (Luke Mayernik) from *Psalter for Worship Year C*; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

The canticle printed below (the NRSV) may be different than the translation sung by the cantors.



As you listen to the psalm, please meditate on how different translations draw us more deeply into God's word, enriching its meaning.

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the

greater gifts.

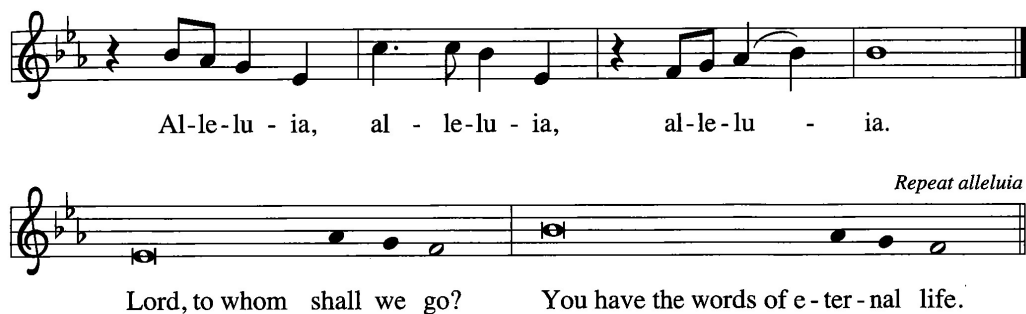
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go” from *ACS Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

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

Repeat alleluia

The Holy Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Anointed to bring good news”

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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Mike Doyne, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

With the spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of hope, today's reading tells us that Ezra spoke about the Book of the Law before men and women so that all present could hear and understand what it was saying. Today, as we read and hear your words, help us, your church, to do the same. May our understanding of your words translate into both personal and corporate concern, care and action serving as many people as possible. Now, more than ever, if we are to live our faith, we must act and live according to your laws, and not the words of those who inappropriately misuse your words for their personal gain or for deceitful purposes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, the heavens proclaim your handiwork; you speak and your Word creates and revives the soul. Use and guide the human intellect to speak and to create in ways pleasing to you; bless governments, industry, and universities to develop and equip this generation with compassion to sustain and care for this planet home that you have given to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of all, as our country moves forward under a new Administration, we pray that our elected leaders develop a mature and thoughtful vision of how to rule, not with malice and hatred but with foresight,

compassion and fairness. Regardless of a person's ethnicity, economic status, ancestry, sex or sexual orientation, their inclusion in our country should be modeled on the open love, concern and welcome as exemplified by the earthly ministry of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Lord of Life, as your presence revives the soul, bless and heal all who struggle with illness, depression, addiction, and fear. Bless those who care for the dying that they might know peace and love as they enter into your eternal care. May your love and healing pour forth upon our church family, especially: Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Mark Thornton, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexaqnder, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

All healing God, help all of us minister to those suffering from the brutal California fires, the bitter cold of winter storms, the unspeakable horrors of war in Gaza and Lebanon, the genocide in Africa and all the unknown and unnamed millions who are displaced, disowned or enslaved around the world. Guide us to know how to help, care for and assist those who are in need, those who are lost and those who simply need love and kindness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Everlasting Father, we praise you that Christ prepares a place for each of us in your kingdom. We offer you thanks for the life and witness of Grey Hunter Hamilton. Welcome Grey into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom and may she share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the extended Hamilton family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promises are revealed among all people.
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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

Tune by Philipp Nicolai

Setting for choir and organ by Johann Kuhnau

How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar; the host of heav'n rejoices; O Righteous Branch, O

Jesse's Rod! You Son of Man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices: Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy, yet most lowly, draw Thou near us; great Emmanuel, come and hear us. Rejoice, you heav'ns; and earth, reply; with praise, all people fill the sky, for this His Incarnation. Incarnate God, put forth Your pow'r, ride on, ride on, great Conqueror, till all know Your salvation. Amen, amen! Alleluia, alleluia! Praise be given evermore, by earth and heaven.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715 stanza one

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Text: & Music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Three

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.

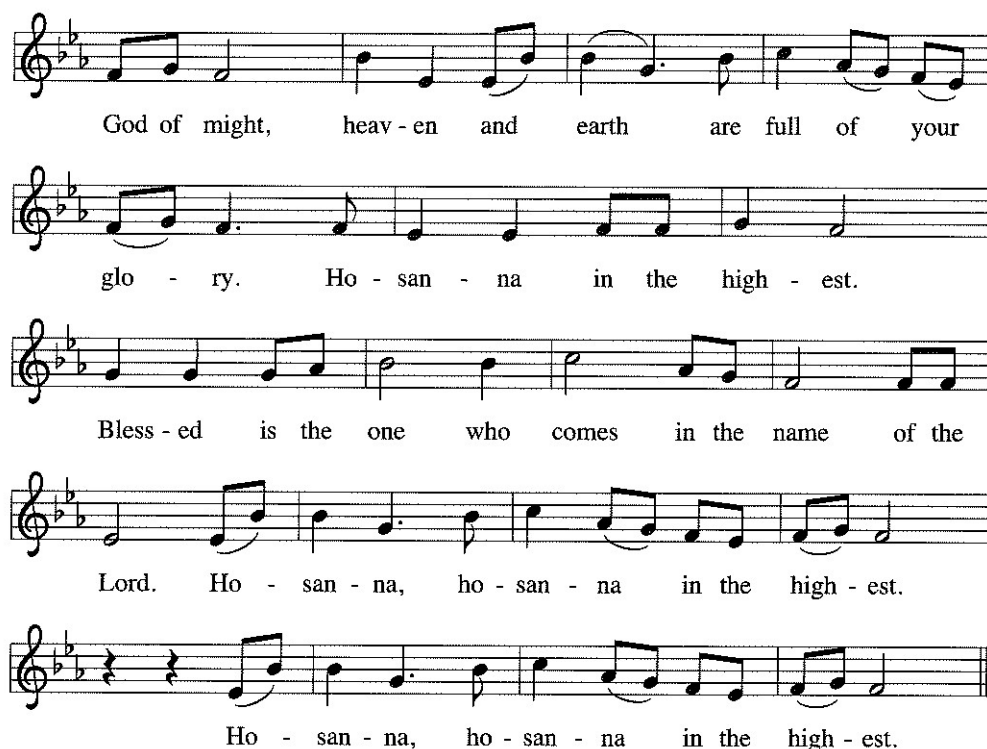
Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



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 to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

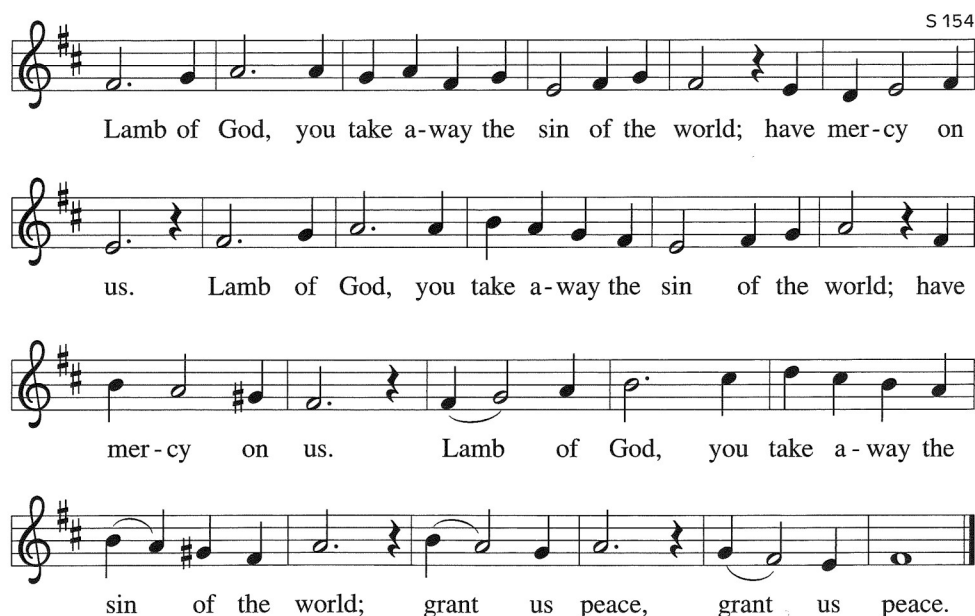
Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available. Communion kits are no longer available.

Communion Music

"Lamb of God" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*



S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"Prelude on 'Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning'"

Tune MORNING STAR by James P. Harding

Organ setting by Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” ELW 551

CHESTERFIELD

1. The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus’ name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God’s favor to proclaim.
2. We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim,
God’s Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus’ name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications; Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata on ‘Morning Star, How Fair and Bright’”

Tune by Philipp Nicolai; Organ setting by Michael Burkhardt



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayers assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Ron Wenzel; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Kenneth Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Gretchen Dodge Jackie Ellington; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Virginia Molan, A.J. Pridgen, Tom Puky, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Janice Miller, Karen Feezor; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team A; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, Eddie & Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Susan Lakeman, John Simon; communion helper: TBD; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Carol Goodall



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, March 5). 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, revealing the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (March 2), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, also revealing the gift of his Spirit dwelling in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Annual Meeting Today St. Mark's 2025 Annual Meeting will follow today's service.

Souper Bowl of Caring 2025 Help "Tackle Hunger" in our community by donating non-perishable food items for the hungry in our community, through Sunday 2/9.

Room in the Inn volunteers are needed! Please sign up in the Gathering Place.

2025 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Space. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please call the church office.



Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please see the NC Synod's website.

Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussion on the book of Acts. The class meets in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutherancharlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and 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.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

Please prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. 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.

2025 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

NOURISH UP (Loaves & Fishes) The need for assistance in many families goes on. ALL foods are welcome but some items you may not have thought of but are certainly needed and appreciated: ketchup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper, sugar, flour, tea bags, instant coffee, pancake mix "complete", syrup and cornbread mix. Please make sure all donations are NON-PERISHABLE and NON-BREAKABLE. The gathering

place baker's rack is always waiting for your donations to those in our community in need. "When I was hungry you gave me food"

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!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".

Music Notes

"O Zion, Haste" ELW 668 Mary Ann Thomson (1834-1923) was born in England, but spent most of her life in Pennsylvania, where her husband was the librarian of the Free Library of Philadelphia. She wrote over forty hymns, and started writing **"O Zion, Haste"** in 1868. She says of this hymn "one night, while I was sitting up with one of my children who was ill with typhoid fever. I thought I should like to write a missionary hymn to the tune **PILGRIMS** for the hymn 'Hark, hark, my soul! Angelic songs are swelling.'" She was not able to write a fitting refrain that night. It wasn't until three years later she penned the refrain "Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release." English organist James Walch (1837-1901) wrote the tune **ANGELIC SONGS** in 1875, originally paired with the hymn "Hark, hark, my soul!" *The Church Hymnal 1892* (Episcopal) joined Thomson's hymn, with Walch's tune.

"Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW 710 William Whitla (b.1934), a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, wrote this hymn in 1989, and published it in a collection of hymns *Sing Justice! Do Justice!* He speaks about his hymn: "I wrote this 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 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 the 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

January 26, Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul throughout Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

January 27, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

On this day the church remembers three women who were coworkers with Paul. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed goods, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a *diakonos*, a deacon in the church at Cenchreae near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service looked after many people.

January 28, Thomas Aquinas, teacher (1225-1274)

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Aquinas sought to explain Christian beliefs within a philosophical framework.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Mike Doyne, Lisa Wiedemer, Ross Boheler, Betty Denison, Charlene Oppermann, Susan G., Ron and Nancy Stepp, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Patty Allen, Jarrod Braunschweiger, Julie Dornberger, Jettie Leslie, Angie Blackwelder Malone, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Ken Foust, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa Coburn, Ingrid Keiris, Shirley Larson, Jimmy Schwartz, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Sergei Kobiakov, Arlene Fielding, Oakley Coburn, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests

(pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 2/2/2025

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary 4

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Birthdays

1/30 Janice Simpson

1/30 Christopher Miller



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 (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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