



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor*

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

January 26, 2025
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “ *Prelude on an Old Irish Tune* ” by George Blake

**** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

***Stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 886

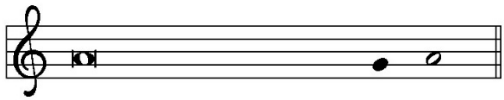
“ Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing ”

**** 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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



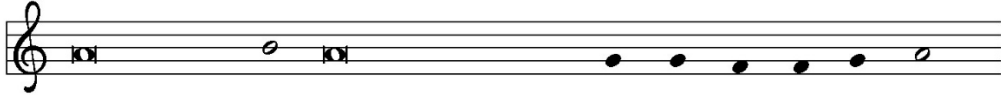
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

** CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All




Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



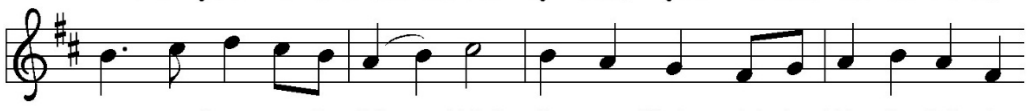
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

** 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.**

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

¹ All the people [of Israel] 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.

² Accordingly, 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. ³ He 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. ⁵ And 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. ⁶ Then 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. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And 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. ¹⁰ Then 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."

PSALM: Psalm 19

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat. R**

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.**

¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.
The teaching of the LORD revives the soul.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For 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. ¹³ For 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.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If 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. ¹⁶ And 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. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The 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.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and 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; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And 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. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**** GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When 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, ¹⁷ and 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, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And 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. ²¹ Then 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.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

SACREMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P Paul Douglas, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

R I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support Paul Douglas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

**** PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

BAPTISM

P Paul Douglas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Paul Douglas with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Paul Douglas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

WELCOME

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized, Paul Douglas.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 843

“ Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ”

INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

P: The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. Joyce Anderson, Judy Bertsch, Nicole Bosley, Gene Durben, Nan Gangler, Kathy Johnson, Audrey Kennedy, Joann Kinzy, Liz Lewis, Jim Murray, Monty Pagenhardt, and Terry Savage. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God

who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C: Amen.

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world especially our ministry teams, worship leaders, council, and committee members. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“ Children of Zion ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 184

“ Let the Vineyards be Fruitful ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

**** BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 551

“ The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God. WE WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Little Prelude in G Minor ” by J.S. Bach



Prayer Requests

Illness: Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel, John Burk, Calvin Samuels, Philip, Paul Thomas, Jim Bosley, Danny Bosley, Mikel Lewis, Gary Wotherspoon, Debbie, Michelle Michaels

Special Needs: Gary, Chase

Upcoming Events

Today

Baptism
Installation of Council
St. Mark's Bingo

Sunday, February 2

Healing Service

Sunday, February 9

Soup-Er Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 23

Reisinger Food Presentation

Thursday, May 8

Sight and Sound Bus Trip



Special Offering – Long-Term Recovery for Men

This month, our offering supports Jacob's Ladder, a men's long-term addiction treatment program located in Aurora, WV, at Brookside Farm near Cathedral State Park. Their holistic approach combines mindfulness, farming, 12-step work, and wilderness therapy to foster purpose-driven recovery. Donations help provide scholarships to offset treatment costs, support staffing, and cover general expenses. Along with our financial donation, we will host a Bingo Sunday after worship downstairs. Admission to the bingo will be men's toiletries and body washes. Your support can make a life-changing difference and an opportunity for these men to heal.

St. Mark's Bingo

Get ready for a fun afternoon at St. Mark's after worship today! Lunch will be served, with Bingo games running from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. For admission, please bring a men's toiletry item to be donated to Jacob's Ladder. We look forward to sharing lunch, laughs, and fellowship with you!

Sight & Sound St. Mark's Bus Trip

Join us for an unforgettable bus trip on May 8th, 2025, to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre for the spectacular production of Noah! Witness the powerful story of Noah's faith and trust as he embarks on one of the world's most famous voyages. This landmark production, featuring live animals and captivating sets that fill the stage and aisles, returns for one season only to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sight & Sound Theatre. In addition to the show, we'll enjoy a scenic bus ride through the beautiful countryside and lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The cost of tickets is \$232 per person (includes transportation, premier 1st-floor seating, and lunch). You'll need to secure your spot by signing up soon. Payment for the trip is due by March 1st. Ticket forms are located in the narthex. Please HOLD your spot by returning the purple form in the narthex or by talking to Joyce Anderson, Ellda, or Pastor Carrie for more information.

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar January 26, 2025 – February 2, 2025

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Baptism
- with Installation of Council
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Bell Quartet at 5:30 p.m.
- Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Adult Forum at 8:30 a.m.
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:

Riley Feathers

Lector:

Nancy Pagenhardt

Organist:

Sean Beachy

Co-Directors of Music:

Sean & Debi Beachy

Recording:

Ellda Bennett

Safekeeper:

Jim Murray

Ushers:

Paul Lewis, Capt.

Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at carrieahoff@outlook.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given in honor of Debbie Burk's birthday.



January 26, 2025, Third Sunday after the Epiphany Luke 4:14-21

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Gracious God, may your Spirit be upon us, and may the Spirit inspire us to stand with those who are oppressed, and proclaim your liberating love to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

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." (Luke 4:18-21)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus goes to his home town synagogue and preaches a one-sentence message that wows the people with its power.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Tell of a time you felt bound and then were freed. What did it feel like to be bound? What did it feel like to be freed?
- For the littles: Who teaches you things you need to know? What's the best thing you've learned recently?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May the Lord make good on the promise of redemption. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Create a scroll of redemption and promise. On newsprint or other large paper, write three promises Jesus has made good on in your life. Write three people or groups of people in your community who need Jesus' promise of redemption or release. Tie your scroll with decorative ribbon or string and place it somewhere to remind you of Jesus' promises.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Sunday, Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Monday, Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:1-10; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Tuesday, Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wednesday, Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:27-32; Luke 4:38-44

Thursday, Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 34:1-7; Acts 10:44-48

Friday, Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; Acts 19:1-10

Saturday, Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51