



## ***ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH***

***6 South Second Street  
Oakland, Maryland 21550***

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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 5, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**Order of Worship**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

Evan Beachy, trombone

*“Christmas Joy Medley”* Gary Lanier

**\*\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*\*\*Stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God’s chosen ones,

holy and beloved,

✝ forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

**\*\* SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**No. 275**

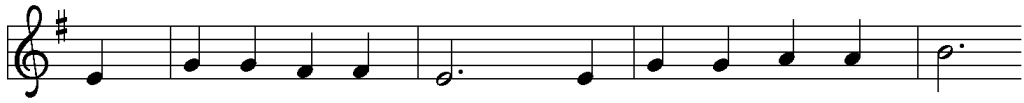
*“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

**\*\* 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**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**\*\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

### **PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20**

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

*Refrain: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly. R**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah! **R**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

### \*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### \*\* GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a

man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**\*\* HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 297

*"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"*

**\*\* 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.**

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials (*local leaders or governing bodies may be named*). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness (*especially*). Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation (*specific ministry areas may be named*). Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*" Infant Holy, Infant Lowly "* arr. David Whipple, Jr

**\*\* OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 294

*" In the Bleak Midwinter "* vs. 3

**\*\* OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

**\*\* 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.**

**\*\* BLESSING**

The God of love,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
shower you with grace,  
light your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

**\*\* RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 287

*“ Let All Together Praise Our God ”*

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**Thanks be to God. WE WILL!**

**POSTLUDE**

Evan Beachy, Trombone

*“ Angels Christmas Medley ”* Gary Lanier





## Prayer Requests

**Illness:** Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel

**Special Needs:** Gary Wotherspoon

**Mourning:** Family and friends of Carl Spiker & Samuel Dick, Sr.



## 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 at St. Mark's on January 26th. 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.

## Announcements

There was an error on the time for Yoga in the e-news that was sent out on Thursday.

There has not been a change in yoga time with the new year, so it is still at 5pm.

A Congregational meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, January 19 after worship service to address two matters. (1) The 2024 Church Year in Review will be presented by Council Committee members and (2) Congregational Council members will be officially elected for the January 1 to December 31, 2025 term of office.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 19**

Congregational Meeting – 2024 Year in Review

**Sunday, January 26**

St. Mark's Bingo

**Thursday, May 8**

Sight and Sound Bus Trip

## 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 5, 2025 – January 12, 2025

- Today**
- Adult Forum at 8:30 a.m.
  - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- 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**
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
  - with Holy Communion
  - Worship & Music Team Meeting after worship
  - Prayer Shaw Ministry Meeting

### Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Laura Robinson
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Music Directors:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recording:	Nicole Bosley
Safekeeper:	Liz Lewis
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at [carriehoff@outlook.com](mailto:carriehoff@outlook.com) or  
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are placed by Peggy & Gayle Bachtel  
for blessings for the year gone and for good fortunes in the new year.



## January 5, 2025, Second Sunday after Christmas

### John 1:(1-9), 10-18

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



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

Holy God, we give you thanks that you chose to come and live as one of us, giving us hope and shining light into our darkness. May we be lights who shine forth your love in the world, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



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

*<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. John 1:18*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

The writer of John spells out in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the one foretold by John the Baptist (and why that matters so much for us in a life of faith).



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Share a time when someone's words to you were powerful.
- For the littles: Do you have a favorite word? How does it make you feel? How can words show God's love?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May your hear God's Word guiding your life. Amen.



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

Write a prayer together using the most beautiful, powerful, and uplifting words you can think of.



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

Sunday, Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Monday, Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21

Tuesday, Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53

Wednesday, Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18

Thursday, Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;  
Matthew 2:1-12

Friday, Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1

Saturday, Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20