

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
JANUARY 25, 2026
3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir

11:00 am - First Sunday of Each Month

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
JANUARY 25, 2026
3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
HOLY COMMUNION**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Conversion of Paul

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter’s confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Monday, January 26, 2026

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light Of God)

R. Farlee

JOHN 1:14

P This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

C ALLELUIA!

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

Listen, God Is Calling

Neno lake Mungu

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

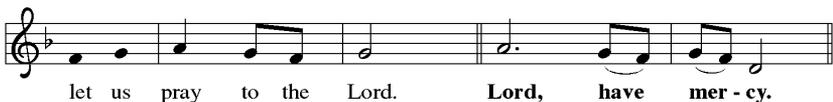
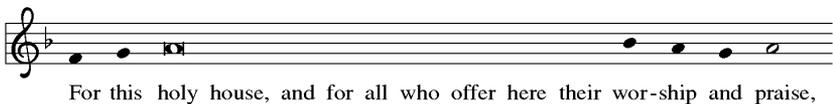
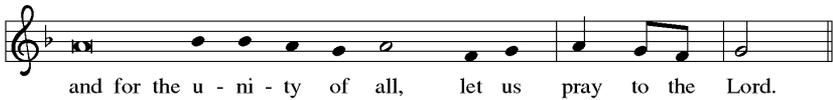
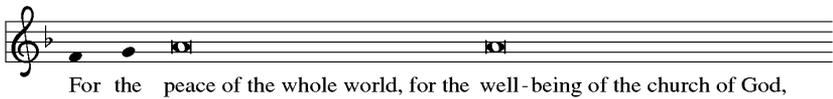
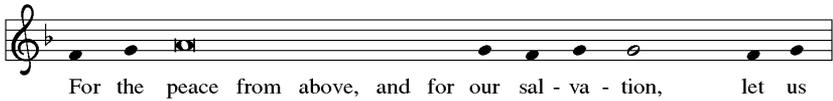
Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

*GREETING

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

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

(Continued next page.)

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** Let us pray.
Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

R A Reading from Isaiah.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

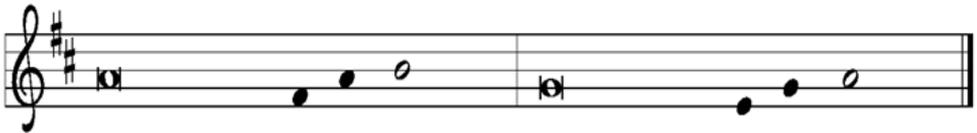
⁴For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 27:1, 5-13

*(Please sing the Psalm responsively. Choir the regular print;
congregation the bold print.)*



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then [|] shall I fear?
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I [|] be afraid?

⁵**One thing have I asked of the LORD; one [|] thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days [|] of my life;

⁶to behold the fair beauty [|] of the LORD
and to seek him [|] in his temple.

⁷**For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe [|] in his shelter;**
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high
up- [|] on a rock.

⁸Even now he lifts [|] up my head
above my enemies [|] round about me.

⁹**Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds [|] of**
great gladness;
I will sing and make music [|] to the LORD.

¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, [|] when I call;
have mercy on me and [|] answer me.

¹¹ You speak in my heart and say, ¹ “Seek my face.”
Your face, LORD, ¹ will I seek.

¹² Hide not your ¹ face from me,
nor turn away your servant ¹ in displeasure.

¹³ You have been my helper; cast me ¹ not away;
do not forsake me, O God of ¹ my salvation.

SECOND LESSON: 1st Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

R A reading from 1st Corinthians.

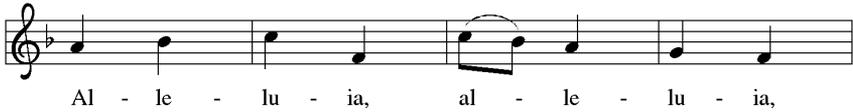
¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For 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.

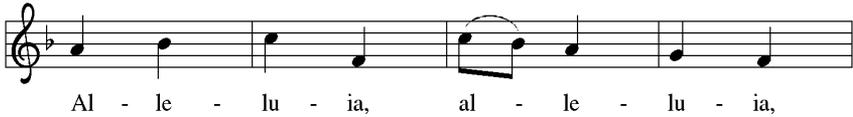
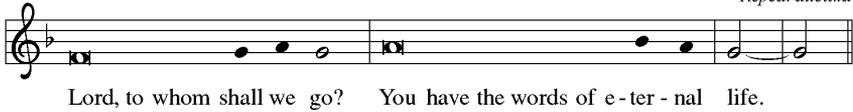
R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA VERSE



Repeat alleluia



*GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NOISY SUNDAY COLLECTION

SERMON

*APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

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

A Merciful God,
C **Receive our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Follow that Star

D. Besig

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

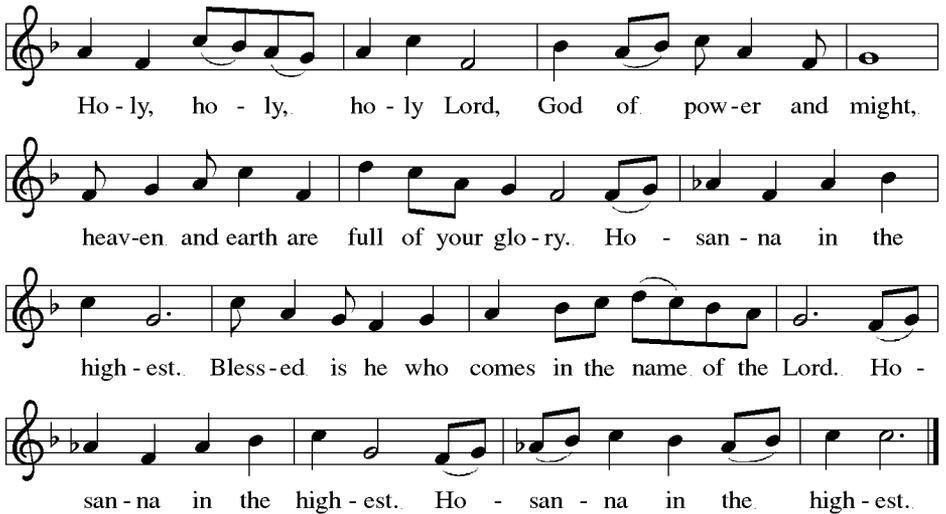
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P 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.

COMMUNION

Congregation may be seated. Please follow the directions of the ushers for the distribution of Communion.

All baptized, communing Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament.

We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine.

Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C **Amen.**

A The blood of Christ shed for you.

C **Amen.**

-COMMUNION-

Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

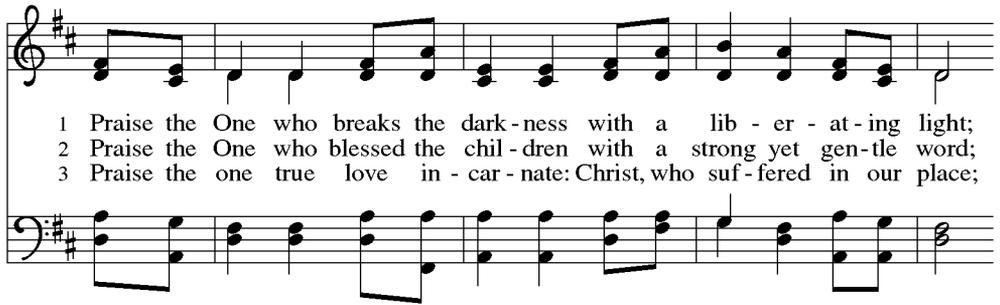


name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

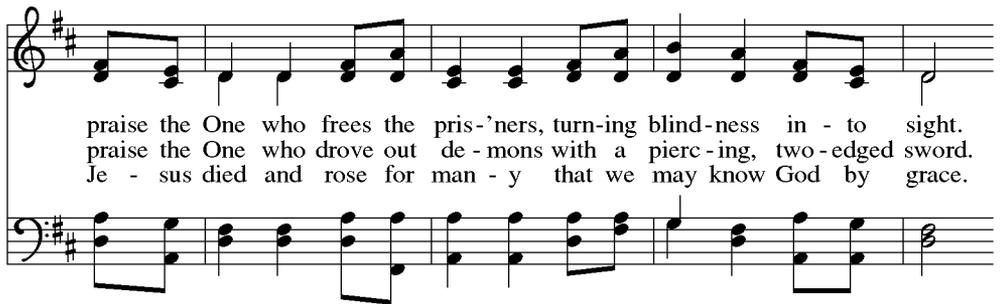


grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



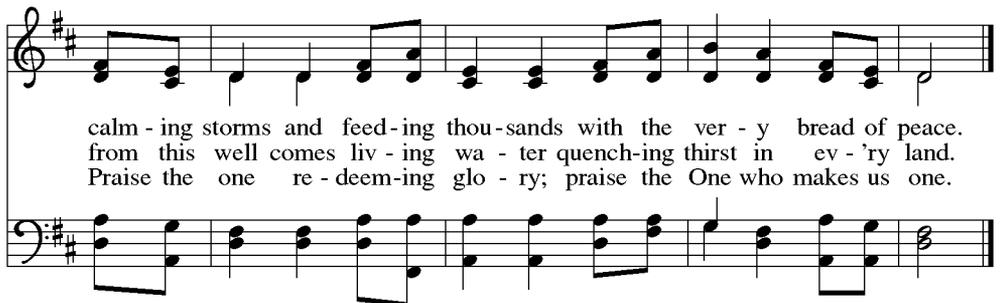
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at-ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis-ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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

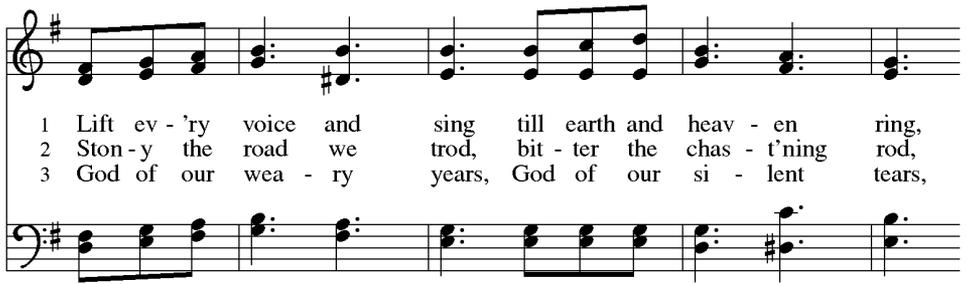
***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

***BLESSING**

P The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.
C Amen.

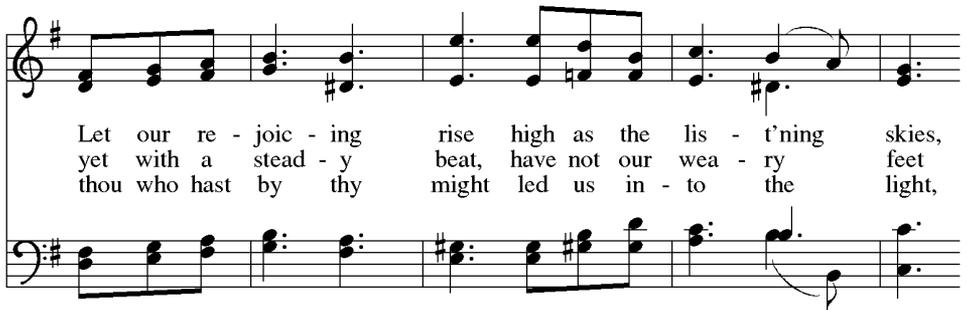
*CLOSING HYMN Lift Every Voice and Sing



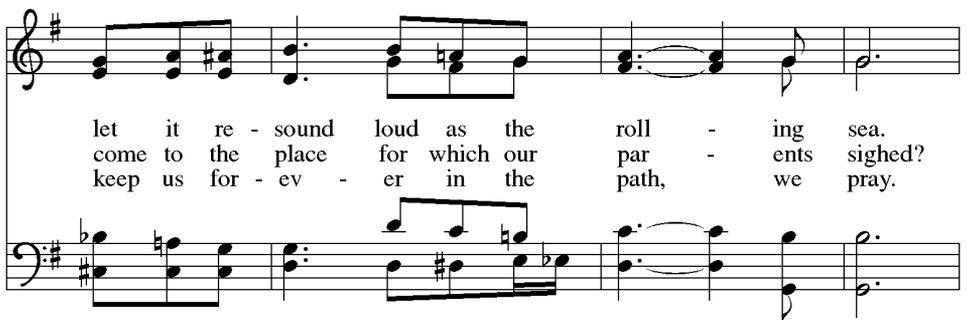
1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

(Continued next page)

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

The Light of the World is Jesus

P. Bliss



To the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers:	Ben Yost, Bev Weaver
Assisting Minister:	Tina Freidhof
Lay Reader:	Matt Yost
Acolyte:	Phyllis Mihalich
Altar Guild:	Michele Connor, Cindy Larkin, Sara Jane Miller
Council Money Duty:	Terry Shaner, Ben Yost

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, January 25

**3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
NOISY SUNDAY
Worship Service-Communion
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

Monday, January 26

**2:00 pm
7:00 pm**

**Violin Lessons
German Group**

Tuesday, January 27

1:00 pm

Social Ministry

Wednesday, January 28

**11:00 am
6:00 pm
7:00 pm**

**Bible Study
Bell Choir
Adult Choir**

Thursday, January 29

**2:30 pm
7:00 pm**

**Violin Lessons
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

Friday, January 30

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, January 31

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, February 1

**8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm**

**4th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Worship Service-Communion
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

REMINDER—ROLLER SKATING PARTY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

OLYMPIC SKATING CENTER

60 E. SHADY LANE, ENOLA, PA

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

**ADMISSION COVERED BY ST. MARK YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY
COMMITTEE**

**SNACK BAR AVAILABLE. ROLLER SKATES AND IN-LINE SKATES
AVAILABLE TO RENT**

FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

We are in need of flower sponsors for February 15 and 22—both vases. Please complete a form located in the back of the bulletin or the ReMarker. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

TIME TO BRING THE SOUP!!!!

Please bring Chicken Noodle Soup or Tomato Soup each week **through February 8** to support your favorite team—Karen's CHICNS (Creating Hope In Chicken Noodle Soup) or Shannon's Super Duper Tomato Soupers.

BRUNCH AND A MOVIE ARE BACK - FEBRUARY 8

What: watch the first episode of the Amazon Prime series "House of David" and eat a potluck brunch

When: February 8 during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM)

Where: in the church Parlor

No need to RSVP, just come with your brunch contribution and enjoy

COLLEGE AND MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

The Youth and Family Ministry Committee will be assembling and sending care packages to our military personnel and college students. If you have a military person or student that you would like to receive a care package, please provide their name and mailing address to Michele Connor (via email to <mailto:crashdog68@aol.com> or text to 717-579-4640) **no later than February 15.**

COLLEGE AND MILITARY CARE PACKAGE DONATIONS

Due to rising shipping costs, we are in need of contributions to cover postage. If you would like to help, please mark your donation for Youth and Family Care Packages. If more is collected than needed for the postage, it will be designated for the Youth and Family Ministry account for upcoming activities.

We are also collecting items to include in the care packages. For a list and to sign up for an item (or more), please see the list here: <https://www.timetosignup.com/stmark/view/1381208>. **Paper sign-up sheets are available at entrances to St. Mark.** Donations can be placed in the Upper Room or given directly to Michele Connor no later than February 15. Thank you for your support and generosity!

DINNER AND BANDIT BINGO

Join us in Fellowship Hall for dinner and Bandit Bingo on Friday, **February 13**. Dinner will be held at **5:00 PM** followed by Bandit Bingo—where “stealing” is encouraged. Please RSVP to Karen Fisher in the church office as soon as possible. Admission is 1 canned food item of your choice for New Hope Ministries.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL TIME.

The Bell Choir will rehearse on **Tuesdays at 6 PM beginning February 17 up until April 1 where we will return to Wednesdays at 6 PM.**

LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**. Worship services will be held at **noon and 6:15 PM.**

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 22**, immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary.

BREAD AND BROTH

Come share a soup meal at St. Mark **every Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM evening during Lent (February 25 through March 25)**. Stay and learn about Power Couples of the Bible during our worship/study time at **6:15 PM**

SAVE THE DATE—ST. MARK YARD SALE

The St. Mark Evangelism Committee is hosting a Community Yard Sale in our back yard on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM. Set up starts at 7:00 AM.** Watch for details in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

-WORD SEARCH-

Fishers of Men

S D R R U E N M U L T I T U D E S X L M R R M B
D N E X K Z W B X Z X S V P G D I Y U Q C A C K
Q S K E T F F O L L O W E D Y X A Z K H A A Y W
Z G P Q P O T T H K C Y K I K J A R E S T Z K Y
V S E H S I F H X P K W B P F K S H M V C T S L
P R Y C U I O E R M N U D C L Q U U S O H E U S
K B E C Y R P J E A S Y P P D O R P M X M L G X
Q A Q T G E D Y T E D Y Y I T W W R Q A I F Q U
B V W Q E F G L S E R H M H J X F U J U G V Z N
J P E M T P N F A N W Z X S B E W O Y F G H R F
E O L D B U N O M C S D S A X M H X I U C V O C
B K B P V O L O V M B B H W O F Q E E P W E Q L
L V X M R E O C M I P N E M F O S R E H S I F Z
P P S T A I R F U I H C E F J F R O C I K I J R
H C N U A L D O S O S B Y A G O V B V I S X D U
U S X K Z P I U S A O N N O B X K D T H F Y P K
Z X G K T H X N F H M S X K L T I H E O C O Q A
F L R E N Y K I R F V V E F P J O D M Y D E K Q
V Y N R Y S U S E J L N R S F N K C K H G O S W
P P T G B Z J F C P G L K T Y P L F O R S O O K
M K S P P L O W A I Z C E R V O B N N T J C Z R
W G X E G C M M S Z G R C A L J P K Z U N O F Q
A X L E I J L A N D G S R E N T R A P N H Q H S
X F T D N P H C A F S D T E O M G X R O E P C N

FISHERS OF MEN	SIMON PETER	MULTITUDE	FOLLOWED
PARTNERS	FORSOOK	FISHES	LAUNCH
MASTER	CATCH	JAMES	JESUS
DEEP	FISH	JOHN	LAND
LORD	LUKE	SHIP	NET

Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Phone #: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

Date Requested: _____

- Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:



\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers

Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office.



Please check any that apply!

- Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JUST HOW NEAR IS IT?

This anxious question is as old as Christians' faith: How near? How near is the kingdom of heaven? Near when angels announce a holy birth. Now? Near when Jesus unrolls a scroll in the synagogue, declaring the acceptable time. Now? Near when miracles of sight and sound and speech, bread and water and wine astound. Now? Near when the Son of David trots into Jerusalem on a donkey, talks of paradise at Golgotha, abandons the tomb. Now? Near when parades of calculations and predictions, numbering of days and decoding of signs make their guesses. Now?

John the Baptizer, eagerly baptizing converts and then, if hesitantly, Jesus himself—John the broadcaster, on behalf of a Savior for the world—gets arrested and executed. The hailed Messiah, Jesus, takes up residence in a tiny fishing village in a land overtaken and occupied by an empire of corruption and death. It would seem—or it *should* seem, if it does not—to anyone paying attention that the kingdom of heaven, if anywhere at all, was nowhere near.

“Repent” was Jesus’ inaugural message. Such a hard thing for people enduring in the hardest of times to hear. Repent of what, for what? By that time, ancient promises made in the name of God must have worn thin at best, if they had not already been tossed out as defective. In how many ways had unreliable promises and hopes for some heavenly kingdom been smashed in their collisions with each dawning day that proved to be just a copy of the grueling one before it?

Repent. Turn around. Pursue life in another direction. A gutsy dispatch! But it caught fire. It spread. It drew crowds because everywhere Jesus went, all through the everyday places of hard-hit dreams and suffering spirits and pained bodies—exactly in those places—Jesus showed himself to be the heavenly good news that heals, the joyful reason to repent of fear. So, welcome and become the kingdom of heaven now and here.