



*God's love, Our service.*

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Sunday, February 8, 2026

### Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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## INTRODUCTION

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Stephen Ministries 50th Anniversary—message from Jenny Wheeler.  
Scout Sunday— message from Pam Wilson.

The February Noisy Offering collection will go to the American Heart Association, chosen by Parish Ed.



## 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,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 532, vs. 1 & 2

### Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreams  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of  
hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### Greeting page 147

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** Pg. 147

**HYMN OF PRAISE** page 149

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God,

**with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> "Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

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<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

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The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending

and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

[ <sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;**  
**the desires of the wicked will perish.**

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### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** p.151

*Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter.*

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** Puppeteers “Let Your Light Shine” by Hillsong Kids  
**SERMON** Pastor Kris Dietzen

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 715

**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.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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**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**

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 brief silence.*

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (**especially**). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

**And also with you**

Let us share God's peace with one another.

## **OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY ELW 184**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .....

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.

**Holy, Holy** pg. 153

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG** pg. 154



## **COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 717**

### **Let Justice Flow like Streams**

- 1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

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### Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,

till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

- 4 Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984  
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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **BLESSING**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 729, vs. 1 & 2**

### **The Church of Christ, in Every Age**

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry

for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

### **St. Mark's members:**

Barbara Strampe,  
Jami Schmideskamp,  
Donna Nichols,  
Pete Cagle,  
Linda Cagle,  
Janet Nichols,  
Chuck Vandenberg,  
Susan & Bill Roberts,  
George McElroy,  
Janet Schmidt,

### **Family & friends:**

Scott Quade, son of Paula Quade,  
Everett & family, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,  
Eric Ohman , friend of Joni Benz,  
Jim Moore, friend of Joni Benz,  
Michel El Haddad, extended Fetsch family member,  
Donna Daeke, sister of Paula Quade,  
Amy Cagle, daughter-in-law of Pete & Linda Cagle,  
Audrey Varner, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Mitch Shaffer, friend of Susan and Bob Fetsch,  
Patty, friend of Vicki Larson,  
Barry Hansen, cousin of Paula Quade,  
Family of Irene, Mother of Janet Krievins,  
Family of Carol Beall, mother-in-law of Tim Anderson and friend of Don & Janet Anderson  
Garry Thomas, father of Mark Thomas,  
Lilian, great granddaughter of Jenny Wheeler's sister,  
Kathryn Young, cousin of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Steve, cousin of Tom Bryer,  
Nancy Harris, daughter-in-law of Nancy & Ron Brown,  
Marilou Osborne, cousin of Joni Benz,  
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,  
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,  
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,  
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,  
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Fran Besser, friend of Joni & Steve Benz,

Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,  
Tammy Strampe, daughter-in-law of Barbara Strampe,  
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,  
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,  
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,  
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,  
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,  
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle  
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,  
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,  
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,  
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,  
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,  
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,  
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,  
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,  
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,  
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,  
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,  
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,  
All People affected by natural disasters  
Those in the Military:  
A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,