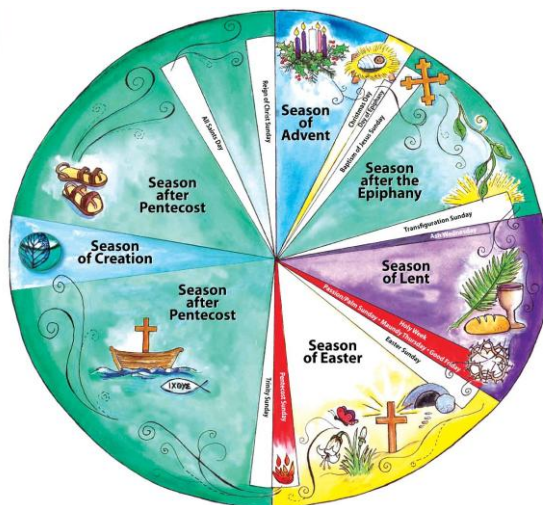


# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

welcomes you!

November  
23,  
2025



Christ the  
King &  
All-Seasons

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

### SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

**105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220**

**EMAIL: [WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG](mailto:WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG)**

***THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR***

***THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS***

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+ **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! “*Quiet Bags*” (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).

+ An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

+ **Assistive listening devices and low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

+ **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

## PRELUDE

*“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”*

*arr. J. Curnow*

Charlie Duncan, trumpet

## WELCOME

The first half of our church year focuses on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, our Savior and our Lord. In the second half of the year the focus shifts to the church and the members of the Body of Christ, as we seek to live out lives of service to the one who comes into history and into each of our lives. And so, the new year and our worship begin, as we remember that **blue** signifies preparation and waiting: the color of **ADVENT**. *Please STAND as you are able*

## GATHERING HYMN

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

**ELW 257** (v. 1 & 5)

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## 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.**

The community has gathered to await the coming Messiah. We stand in the fields with the shepherds and search the night sky for the promised sign, the symbol that announces his birth. In the darkest hour, a brilliant star appears. The precious child who has come into our lives to save us from our sinful natures has been born in a small rural community on the outskirts of the holy city of Jerusalem. A baby cries in Bethlehem, and the heavens rejoice at his coming. It is **CHRISTMAS**, the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus, and the colors are **white and gold**.

## HYMN OF PRAISE—

**“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

**ELW 270**(v. 1, 3)

Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die  
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *Following the prayer, please SIT.*

As a community of faith we celebrate the coming of Christ by looking to the star that symbolizes his birth on the Day of the **EPIPHANY**. Epiphany means "revealing," for it was the star, the heavenly messenger that led the wise men from their homes in the east to the place where Jesus was born. Here their journey ended, and their dreams were fulfilled. As they knelt before the Christ child, they presented precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

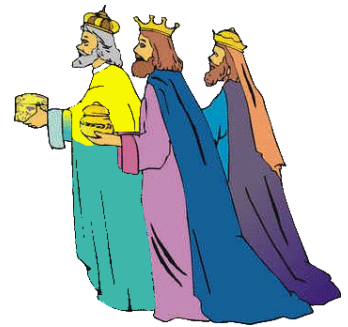
## HYMN

### "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

**Refrain:** O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. *(Refrain)*



Even the Son of God met the expectation of cultural traditions and fulfilled all that was required of good Jews: his family adhered to the custom of presenting their boy in the Temple and circumcision on the eighth day; Jesus presented himself for baptism in the river Jordan. We observe similar rituals to mark the passages in our lives and the lives of our children. We remind ourselves in our scripture readings that God is the author of all our days, and that we are to continue to seek ways for every gift to be put to use in the building up of the Body of Christ, and to further the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

# WORD

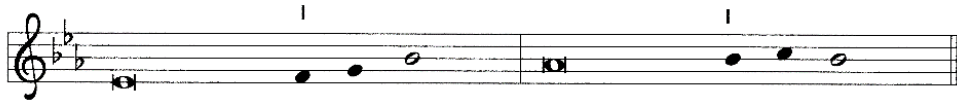
## FIRST READING – Jeremiah 23:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 46** *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



<sup>1</sup> God is our ref-<sup>1</sup>uge and strength,  
a very present<sup>1</sup> help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the<sup>1</sup> earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths<sup>1</sup> of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup> though its waters<sup>1</sup> rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble<sup>1</sup> with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-<sup>1</sup>y of God,  
the holy habitation of<sup>1</sup> the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the<sup>1</sup> break of day.

<sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the<sup>1</sup> kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth<sup>1</sup> melts away.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works<sup>1</sup> of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought up-<sup>1</sup> on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in<sup>1</sup> all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the<sup>1</sup> shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## SECOND READING Colossians 1:11-20

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

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

## GOSPEL READING – Luke 23:33-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the

Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly STANDS to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**ELW 855**



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

The green **SEASON OF EPIPHANY** is a time for seeking, for growing, for connecting with God, as a way to strengthen our journey of faith for the hard times which come to any human life. For each of us, as for all of God’s children, there comes a time in life when we accept for ourselves the message of salvation promised in baptism, and we take our place in the community of the faithful. Just as Christ was confirmed as the Messiah in the **whiteness** of God’s glory on the Day of **TRANSFIGURATION**, we confirm our faith each time we state the ancient words about who we are and what we believe. This creed reminds us that we are family, the Body of Christ in this world.

## **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** *The names of those for whom we pray aloud are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the Mark Times newsletter. The response to Hear us, O God, is Your mercy is great...*

**Ken** Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage,  
**Ivan** Kohlmeier, **Morris** Kugler, **Bruce** Martens, **Lucy** Montgomery, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow,  
**Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey, **Gary** Weshinskey

The season changes, and in Jesus' life and ministry, "he set his face toward Jerusalem." The 40 days of repentance, reflection and renewal we experience during Lent mirror other Bible accounts of "forty:" the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness, 40 days and nights of rain against the ark, and the 40 days of temptation Jesus endured after his baptism.

We begin the Lenten journey with the **black** of **ASH WEDNESDAY**, when we are reminded once again of our own mortality with the imposition of ashes and the words, "Remember that you are dust, and into dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday focuses our attention on the fact of our own death, and points us to the reality that all that we are, all we have, all we achieve will one day be dust. Ash Wednesday moves us beyond the futility of a life spent for "nothing" toward the freedom of a life poured out in service to others for God's sake.

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please **KNEEL**, or remain as you are. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God, **you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.**  
**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression**  
**and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.**  
**We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.**  
**We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**  
**Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,**  
**renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, in Christ + Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

**PEACE** *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following **the Peace**,  
you may be **seated** for a few moments.*

## **MEAL**

For the gifts that God has given us, and the gratitude we feel because God gives our very lives  
their meaning and purpose, we return a portion of “ourselves, our time, and our possessions” to  
God through our tithes and our offerings.

**OFFERING** *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table  
near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Portrait of Praise”*

*Donna Butler*

*Lyrics can be found on page 14*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assistant:* Let us pray together... **God of healing and hope,**  
**you bless those who are hungry,**  
**promising to fill them with good things.**

**Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.**

**Nourish us with the abundance of your feast**  
**and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,**  
**now and forever. Amen.**

Now, fully into the Season of **LENT**, we focus on the royal color of penitence, which is **purple**,  
and we ponder who we are as God's people. We take time to renew our spiritual relationship  
with God and we begin preparations for remembering his Passion, his suffering and death;  
always mindful of how grateful we are that death now claims no victory over us because of  
Jesus Christ, God's loving sacrifice.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

*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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, HOLY

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*On the night before he died, 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

### LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*

S 154



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



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



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



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

## COMMUNION

*Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

### “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

ELW 351



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

## MEDITATION HYMN

*St. Mark Bell Choir*

*After the distribution and music is complete, please STAND as you are able for the blessing.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

Now we have shared with Christ his body and blood. We have watched his death by Crucifixion and waited through the nights that he lay dead in a stone-cold tomb. We breathe in the pain that our sinfulness has caused God, and we look to the heavens for and answer to our despair.

We walk to the tomb with the women, our hearts full of sorrow...but wait! The tomb is empty and an angel proclaims that even the powers of evil and death cannot hold our Lord. “He is not here. He is risen!” God has won the victory! It is **EASTER**, the Resurrection of our Lord, and even the **white, gold** and lilies of creation cannot fully express the joy we feel as the dawn of Christ breaks into our weary hearts.

**“Jesus Christ is Risen Today!”**

**ELW 365 v. 1, 4**

Jesus Christ is Risen today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assistant:* Let us pray together...

**God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name. Amen.**

*Please SIT*

The light and the power of Christ are shared with each of us in the waters of our baptism, and we are reminded that we, the followers of Jesus the Christ, have work to do. Our Lord has returned to his heavenly Father and left us with the assignment to “Go and tell everyone the good news about what God has done for you.”

On the Day of **PENTECOST**, as the disciples gathered in the city of Jerusalem to preach the gospel of forgiveness and teach the people about Jesus, there was a sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and tongues like fire descended upon them from heaven. And they were “clothed with power from on high.” The color is **red**, the intensity of fire.

In our baptism, we received the heavenly strength to do the right thing, to speak the forgiving word, to bring comfort to the sick and grieving and to proclaim justice to the lands.

**“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”**

**ELW 400** (v. 1, 4)

God of tempest, God of whirlwind,  
as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;  
past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service,  
there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!

God of passion, God unsleeping,  
stir in us love's restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish,  
may we share your heart's distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil;  
claim us for your kingdom's work,  
claim us for your kingdom's work!

Renewed by God’s Holy Word and by the nourishment of Christ’s presence in the bread and wine, and reminded that we have been born again in the waters of baptism and filled with the Holy Spirit, we, like the first disciples, are strengthened once again to go forth and live abundantly. Throughout the long **green SEASON OF PENTECOST**, we learn how to live out our unique ministries. We rejoice that God has so richly blessed us with the salvation that frees us to *be* hope and compassion in the midst of a despairing world. Through the ministry of our daily lives, we give thanks to God for all that we are, all that we have and all that we are able to do for others, knowing that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do so, because God’s promise of forgiveness and love will never fail.

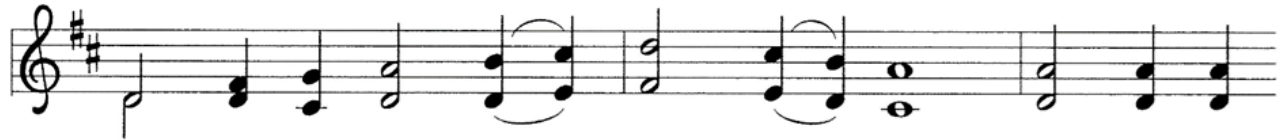
**SENDING**

**BLESSING** *Please STAND as you are able*

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,  
God the Son save you,  
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you +  
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart  
now and forever.

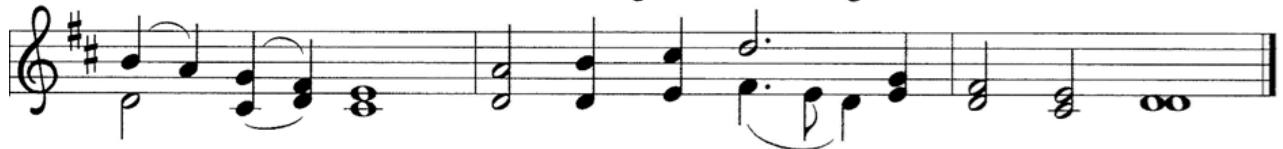
**Amen.**



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 thron - e to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

*Assistant:* Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*M. Hayes*

**MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister & Crucifer:** Corbin Monfre

**Chalice Bearer:** Greg Martens + **Lector:** Curtis Dowty

**Tech Minister:** Greg Martens + **Ushers:** Kathy Casey & Nancy Guenther

**Safety Volunteer:** Mark Bearth

## Portrait of Praise

By Donna J. Butler

I will sing a song of praise to God, for He has given my heart a new song. (x2)

But may all who seek him rejoice and be glad.

May those who love thy salvation shout, "Great is the Lord, Great is the Lord!"

I will sing a song of praise to God, for He has given my heart a new song. (x2)

I waited patiently for God. He turned to me and heard my cry;

He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,

and set my feet on a rock of salvation, salvation.

I will sing a song of praise to God, for He has given my heart a new song. (x4)

But may all who seek Him rejoice and be glad.

May those who love thy salvation shout, "Great is the Lord, Great is the Lord!"

I will sing a song of praise to God, for He has given my heart a new song.

## **Advent & Christmas Schedule 2025**



**Sundays in Advent –November 30, December 7, 14, 21**

**Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM**

**Wednesdays in Advent –December 3, 10, & 17**

**Soup supper at 6:00 PM**

**Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM**

**Advent Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 14**

**Joint service with St. George's Episcopal at 5:00PM**

**Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24**

**Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM**

(with candle lighting)

**Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25**

**Joint Divine Liturgy with St. George's Episcopal at 10:00 AM**



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas - Sunday, December 28**

**Joint Service of Lessons & Carols with St. George's Episcopal at 10:00 AM**



# Prayer Intentions

## St. Mark Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Ivan Kohlmeier, Morris Kugler, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

## St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Donna Greenwell, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martizsus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Shirley Saia, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

## Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

## We pray for those who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Oliva Rensing (11/23), Donna Loesche (11/24), Kathy Bamvakais (11/25), Michael Guenther (11/25), and Kathy Casey (11/26)

## We pray for those who celebrate their wedding anniversary this week:

Anita & Darrell Robinson (11/26)

## We pray for those who grieve the recent loss of loved ones:

The family and friends of **Joe Luffman** (Anita Robinson's uncle) (11/16)

## St. Mark Staff

**Pastor:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Pastor Emeritus:** The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

**Administrative Assistant:** Randi Cardoza + **Music Director:** Carol Kugler

**Organist:** Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

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# MARK TIMES

## NEWS and NOTES for November 23, 2025

<b>Sunday, Nov. 23:</b>	10:30AM	Congregational budget meeting
<b>Monday, Nov. 24:</b>	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee meeting – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council meeting – CR
<b>Thursday, Nov. 27</b>	9:00AM	Thanksgiving Day worship (St. George's) - chapel
<b>Thurs-Fri, Nov. 27-28:</b>		<i>Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday</i>

### Budget Meeting TODAY

This morning (**November 23**) during the Adult Forum hour in the Parish Hall, a meeting will be held to discuss the 2025 Church Spending Guide/Budget which will be voted on at the Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 7. This meeting will allow us to answer questions regarding the budget, and to make tweaks before approval at the Church Council meeting on November 24. Please plan to attend!

### Pumpkin Palooza Thank You!!!

Such a great variety of goodies and crafts were donated for last Sunday's Pumpkin Palooza bake sale! We collected an astounding **\$1900** to benefit our combined Food Pantry. Thank you to all the treat bakers and shoppers! It is such a blessing to do the Lord's work together to serve our community – and have fun in the process! And congratulations to Barb Miller, winner of the quilt raffle!



### Thanksgiving Day Service

**St. George's** Episcopal Church is offering a **Thanksgiving Day worship** service at **9:00AM** in the **chapel** this Thursday, November 27. This is not a joint service but interested St. Mark members are welcome to attend!



### “Angel Tree” Project with Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS)

St. Mark and St. George's are again participating in the Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through LCFS. The project provides Christmas gifts to especially needy families in our area.



Remember, you are not asked to provide everything on the child's wish list—a **\$60 limit per child** is recommended. However, we realize that may not be possible for many so please consider asking other members, family members or neighbors to share the joy of Christmas with you!

*Please attach the child's name/wish sheet to the UNWRAPPED gift to be **returned by Sunday, December 7**, and earlier if possible. Gift wrap and/or gift bags may also be donated.*

Please contact Sherri Foppe 618-791-6148 [cookinsherri2@gmail.com](mailto:cookinsherri2@gmail.com) or Ann Martens 618-530-8679 if you have any questions. Monetary gifts will be accepted for those who prefer not to shop, and may be given to Ann or Sherri. Donations for gifts may also be given online at <https://shorturl.at/usHZG>



**Advent Evening Prayer Service & Soup Suppers** return **Wednesday, December 3**. Plan to come enjoy a hot meal of soup and salad at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall before joining us in the church for Holden Evening Prayer. **Get a group together and host one of the soup suppers!** A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

### **Proclaim Christ's birth with flowers!**

Anyone wishing to donate should watch for a special envelope in the pews, fill out the front portion and return it, with a check/cash, to the offering plate or the office by 12/18 with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. \*Online donations may be made through VANCO at <https://shorturl.at/ar1Ss>. All dedications will be published in the Christmas bulletin.



### **Meals on Wheels Needs Help!**



The Meals-On-Wheels services provided out of our Parish Hall need more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please see Frank Dressel or David Buckley about serving those for whom this food may be the only substantial meal of the day.

### **Franklin School Lunch Packing**

We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students at Franklin school for all long weekends, and we welcome volunteers! Packing requires about an hour on the day before most holiday weekends. See Peggy Andersen (618-791-0992) to sign up or for questions. Your support is so much appreciated!

### **Christmas Caroling on December 7**

On **Sunday, December 7**, you're invited to join a group of us to sing Christmas carols to the residents of two local long-term care facilities, including some of our own church members. We will meet at **1:50PM** at **EverVella** Care Center (formerly Mercy, formerly Rosewood) in Swansea for our first stop. **All ages are welcome!**



### **Advent Lessons & Carols**

Please join us **Sunday, December 14** at **5:00PM** for our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols with St. George's. This traditional service is a wonderful way to celebrate the season, with beautiful hymns and scripture passages to guide and focus us in our time of preparation for Christmas and the Lord's return. The service is especially appropriate for inviting friends and family, particularly those who might be searching for "something more" this holiday. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

### **New Date for Important Safety Class**

On **Saturday, February 7** from 9am-1pm in the parish hall, Chestnut Health Systems will present information on **Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide awareness/prevention**. Our target audience is the safety committee members, food pantry workers and ushers. Anyone else interested in this important information is also very welcome to attend. Please sign up in the Canterbury Room, on the available sheets, to assist in our planning.

For questions, please call Sue Vaughn at 618-593-7213.

**Offerings (11/16): General Fund: \$2,600; Food Pantry (Andersen Memorial): \$50; Staff Gift: \$50  
John Andersen Memorials: \$25; Wally Kleist Memorials: \$150; Christmas Flowers: \$25**