

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2026 YEAR A

Welcome

Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church! Whether this is your first time or thousandth time in worship with us, we are so glad you are here. St. Mark's is an inclusive community of faith, committed to celebrating God's creative love in all people. Together, we strive to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. You are welcome here—in worship, at the communion table, and in our walk together.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship each week, you are invited to find a comfortable space to sit quietly and listen to the prelude. The prelude is the first part of worship, setting the tone for what is to come and helping God's people to unplug from the rhythms of daily life and prepare for a time of worship. We hope this musical offering will resonate in your soul and invite you into our worship practice.

Prelude

“How bright appears the Morning Star” **Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)**
(Based on this morning’s opening hymn)

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn 497 “How bright appears the Morning Star” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People: ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

*Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Presider Together let us pray.

(In Unison) *Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O

mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15 *see next page*

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

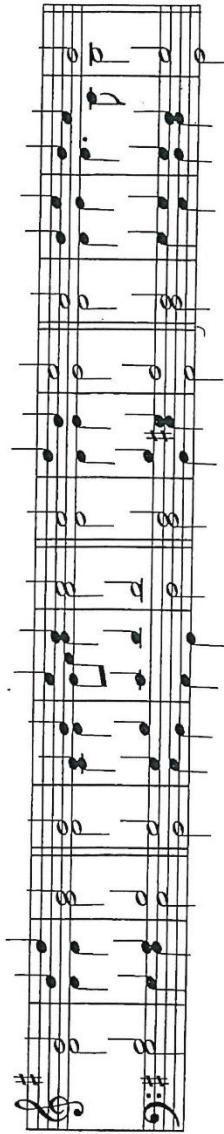
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 656 “Blest are the pure in heart”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Psalm 15

Domine, quis habitat?



1 LORD, who may | dwell • in your | tabernacle? *
who may abide u-| pon your | holy | hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and | does • what is |
right, *
who | speaks the | truth • from his | heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no | evil • to his | friend; *
he does not heap con-| tempt up- |on his | neighbor.

5 He has sworn to | do no | wrong *
and | does not • take | back his | word.

4 In his sight the | wicked • is re-|jected, *
but he honors | those who | fear the | LORD.

6 He does not give his money in | hope of | gain, *
nor does he take a | bribe a-|gainst the | innocent.

7 Whoever | does these | things *
shall | never • be | over-|thrown.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Homily

The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

The Nicene Creed (*from Enriching our Worship*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the

prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader As God chooses to walk with the humble, let us boldly offer our prayers for all those who in their weakness need justice and kindness; saying, God of abundant love and light, ***“Protect all your children, we pray.”***

We pray for the holy catholic church throughout the world, that we may proclaim Christ crucified as the power of God and the wisdom of God;

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Delaney and Jerre our clergy, and for all the holy People of God;

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the Vine in Ferguson;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury and The Church of England;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision San Felipe y Santiago, Apostoles in Loiza;

We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We give thanks on her birthday with Sara Mehta. God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for prophets in every land who rebuke the spirits of greed and violence, oppression and despair, and for all who teach the truth of God; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for this country, for all nations and their leaders, and for those who guard the peace; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for the world, that our conflicts may cease, and that peace and justice may reign, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for all those burdened by anguish or illness, and for those who care for them with love and healing. We pray for prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homeless, and oppressed, for all immigrants and refugees; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need;

We pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud [pause];

We pray for all who struggle with addiction, that God may strengthen them in their recovery;

We pray for those serving in the armed forces; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

We pray for the dying and the dead, especially Rick Liermann, that they may know the comfort of your eternal light; God of abundant love and light,

Protect all your children, we pray.

The Presider offers this concluding collect.

Give us courage, God our strength, to see your Christ in all who suffer, to be hands to the helpless, food for the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. ***Amen.***

Confession and Absolution

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Presider and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Peace *All stand as able. The Presider says to the people*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Congregation greets one another with the peace of Christ.

Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

Children's Time

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem “Send Out Thy Light”

M. A. Balakireff (1836-1910)

Send out thy light, O send thy truth,
That they may lead me, O Lord, to thy holy hill.
My soul shall trust in God the Lord;
For I will yet give thanks to God,
Who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
Send out thy light, O send thy truth,
That they may lead me, Lord, to thy dwelling place.

Psalm 43:3.6 © 2003 Birnamwood Publications

The Holy Eucharist II

S 120

Lift up your hearts *Sursum corda*

Celebrant People

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant People

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father almighty, Creator of heav'n and earth; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Presider and People

Holy, Holy, Holy S130 Schubert Blue 1982 Hymnal

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

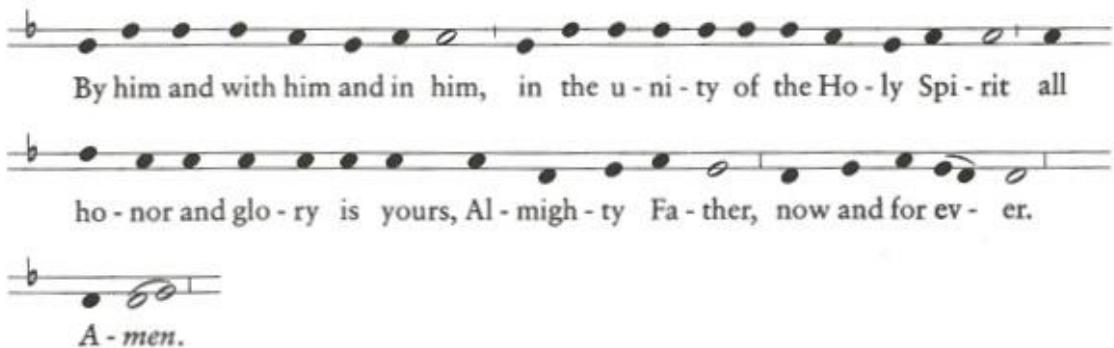
On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, God of grace,
***We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await
Christ's coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.



By him and with him and in him, in the u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit all
ho - nor and glo - ry is yours, Al - migh - ty Fa - ther, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Presider

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem S 164 Schubert *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Ministration of Communion

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome to receive the Holy Communion at this altar. Gluten free hosts are available. At the altar rail, please let the priest know that you require gluten free.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 201 “I've got peace like a river” *see insert*

Post Communion Prayer

Presider God is with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Together, let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Presider Loving God, light of hope and promise of peace.

People ***We give you thanks.***

Presider For the body and blood of Christ our Savior.

People ***We give you thanks.***

Presider For the journey ahead and what we do not yet know;

People ***For your presence, and your challenge, and the joy we cannot yet imagine, we offer ourselves. Thanks be to God. Amen!***

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn 556 v. 1-5 “Rejoice, ye pure in heart!” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude “Allegro moderato maestoso” Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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Music Note: February has been designated Black History month. We'll sing a spiritual each Sunday to honor the heritage of the African Americans.

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Erica White *Usher*: Diane Nienkemper *Greeter*: Kittie Golomski

Altar Guild: Jon Danieley *Livestream*: Vicki Stegmann

Crucifer: Sam Barrett *Chalice*: Roger Robards/Sam Barrett

Godly Play: Schoenberg *Coffee Hour*: Jon Danieley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting has been postponed to February 15th. We welcome all to attend. We have also decided to Zoom this meeting also. Soups will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to bring salad, bread or desserts (or contact Melissa). Childcare will be available. Vestry positions are still available. Contact a vestry member or Rev. Delaney if you are interested.

**SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4714 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109**

314/832-3588

www.saintmarks-stl.org

revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org

parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson Bishop of MO Barbara Raedeke Organist and Choir Director

The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse Rector Celeste Kocot Youth Christian Formation

The Rev. Jerre Birdsong Deacon Melissa Engle Parish Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Teresa K.M. Danieley Priest Associate

Communion Hymn LEVAS 201 “I’ve got peace like a river”

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a bass clef, the second with a soprano clef, and the third with an alto clef. The lyrics are arranged in three staves below the music, corresponding to the three parts of the hymn. The first part (1. I've got...) has three lines of lyrics. The second part (2. I've got...) has three lines of lyrics. The third part (3. I've got...) has three lines of lyrics. The fourth part (1. riv - er, ...) has three lines of lyrics. The fifth part (2. foun - tain, ...) has three lines of lyrics. The sixth part (3. o - cean, ...) has three lines of lyrics. The seventh part (1. soul; ...) has three lines of lyrics. The eighth part (2. soul; ...) has three lines of lyrics. The ninth part (3. soul; ...) has three lines of lyrics. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The lyrics describe peace, joy, and love as being like a river, fountain, ocean, and soul.

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS 2026 ST.MARK'S PHOTO DIRECTORY

This year we will be working on a photo directory. Ed Rich will be snapping photos for us for the new directory to come out in 2026. If you would like to be included in the photo directory, the last date for photos is next Sunday, **February 8th**, so before you head to your Big Game Parties, stop by the Parish Hall and get a picture snapped.

Coffee Hours

Back by popular demand! Please join Delaney+ at Coffee Hour. The next coffee hour is Thursday, February 19th at the Knead Bakehouse from 10:30am-noon.

Evensong at the Christ Church Cathedral

On Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. St. Mark's choir will join the choir of Christ Church Cathedral in a service of Evensong at the Cathedral. In celebration of

Black History month, the service will feature works of African American composers William Grant Still, David Hurd, Fela Sowande, and others. We are very honored to have been invited to participate, and we hope that many St. Mark's folks will attend. All are welcome!

Online Giving at St. Mark's

Thank you so much for your desire to support the ministry here at St. Mark's! If you would like to give online, simply scan the QR code below using the camera on your smart phone to visit our online giving platform.

Your generosity is a blessing!



We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially Duane and Anne Benson, Yulia Borjte, Canon Desiree Brattin, Steve Chamberlin, Alicia Crowe, Tom Gard, Sue Garrett, Mark Godfrey, Yaz Hernández and their extended family, Denise Huber, Margaret and Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jane Kozielec and Allen, Debbie Kramer, Stephanie Maass, the McLean, Haggerty, and Casey families, Penny McCullough, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Neice Nelson, Betty Orlando, Kristen Patterson, Barbara Raedeke, Nancy Raedeke, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Cheryl Schulz, Lois Schubert, Rick Schubert, Logan Smith, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Scott Thomas, Bill Trafka, Casey Tyler, Dominic Walker, Roy Watts, David and Doris Westfall, The White Family, Gene Wilberg, Susan Winfrey, The Workman Family, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug, Fritz, Rebecca, Lynn, Catreta and Dennis.

We give thanks on her birthday with Sara Mehta.

We pray for those who have died especially Rick Liermann.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Jesse Foy, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Logan Smith.