



# ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

### JANUARY 4TH, 2026 YEAR A

Prelude “Lo, how a rose e'er blooming”

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

(Based on Hymn 81)

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn 109 “The first Nowell”

*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.***

Gloria S277    Hurd

*(Blue 1982 Hymnal)*

***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)* ***O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

## The Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

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

## Psalm 72:1-7,10-14                    *Deus, iudicium*

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
    and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
    and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
    and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
    he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
    from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
    like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
    there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
    and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
    and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
    and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
    he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
    and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

### **The Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches

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

**Sequence Hymn 93 “Angels from the realms of glory”**

*Blue 1982 Hymnal*

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

### **The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*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 we celebrate the manifestation of God's love to all nations, let us with confidence bring our petitions to God's altar, praying, ***"Glory and praise to you, O living God."***

For the church throughout the world, that we may be led by the truth and splendor of your light;

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. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue;

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

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision La Santa Cruz in Lares;

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

We give thanks on their birthdays with Jeanette Schoenberg, Cari Schroeder and Roger Robards and on their anniversary with Jared and Selina Forsyth. Let us pray, ***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, let us pray,  
***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For justice, peace, and freedom from oppression among peoples of the earth, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, let us pray,  
***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the homeless, and for immigrants and refugees and those in prison, and for those who live in fear of separation of their homes and families, let us pray,  
***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

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; let us pray,

***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

For the dying and the dead and those who grieve, let us pray,

***Glory and praise to you, O living God.***

*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**

*Presider* Our Savior Jesus Christ says, ‘A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you.’ Let us confess to almighty God our failure to accept and to share love with others.

*Silence is kept for a time as we recall where we have sinned against God and our neighbors.*

*Presider* Jesus, the anointed one, you come to us to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to bring release to the captives.

*People* ***We have neglected the poor, the broken hearted, and those in bondage. In your goodness, Savior have mercy.***

*Presider* Jesus, Prince of Peace, you breathed your own spirit upon us that we may be united in love.

*People* ***We have grieved your spirit and have divided one from another. In your goodness; Savior have mercy.***

*Presider* Jesus, Redeemer, you gave your life that we may be made holy and whole.

*People* ***We have not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. In your goodness; Savior have mercy.***

*Presider* Be assured of God's love, forgiveness and grace. May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Holy Spirit enable you to grow in love.  
***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*

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

**Offertory Hymn 119 "As with gladness men of old"** *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

### The Holy Eucharist II

**Lift up your hearts** *Sursum corda*

**S 120**

*Celebrant* *People*

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Celebrant and the bottom staff is for the People. Both staves begin with a B-flat clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The notes are represented by solid black dots on the staff lines. The lyrics "The Lord be with you. And also with you." are written below the staves.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Celebrant and the bottom staff is for the People. Both staves begin with a B-flat clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The notes are represented by solid black dots on the staff lines. The lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." are written below the staves.

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

*Celebrant*

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Celebrant and the bottom staff is for the People. Both staves begin with a B-flat clef, a common time signature, and a key signature of one flat. The notes are represented by solid black dots on the staff lines. The lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." are written below the staves.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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.

## 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.*

### **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 128 “We three kings of Orient are”** *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

### **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!***

**Closing Hymn 124 “What star is this?”**

*Blue 1982 Hymnal*

### **The Dismissal**

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude “Noël Suisse”**

**Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)**

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## ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

*Lector:* Susan Goen

*Usher:* Marilyn Wiethop *Greeter:* Diane Nienkemper

*Altar Guild:* Tom Bradley

*Chalice:* Roger Robards/Scott Thompson

*Crucifer:* Scott Thompson

*Livestream:* Vicki Stegmann

*Godly Play:* Robards

*Coffee Hour:* Aaron Odle

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We welcome all to attend. Those who submit reports for the Annual meeting the cut-off date for submissions is January 20<sup>th</sup>. I will be sending a reminder email to all of you. Childcare will be available.



### 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, there are two more dates that Ed will be available for picture taking. The remaining days for photos are: January 11 and February 8. If there are any changes to your address, or if you would like to include birthday/anniversary information, please contact Melissa in the office at [parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org) or call 314-832-3588

## SAVE THE DATE!



**FIREBIRD**  
2026

**JULY 26-31**

**WELCOME BACK TO CAMP FIREBIRD!**  
CAMP MOVAL — UNION, MISSOURI

**Camper Week:** July 26-31, 2026  
**Staff Training:** July 23-26, 2026

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 7**  
FOR CAMPERS AND COUNSELORS  
[diocesemo.org/camp-firebird](http://diocesemo.org/camp-firebird)



Questions:  
[mocampfirebird@gmail.com](mailto:mocampfirebird@gmail.com)

[diocesemo.org/camp-firebird](http://diocesemo.org/camp-firebird) | [mocampfirebird@gmail.com](mailto:mocampfirebird@gmail.com)

## 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 the Anderson family, Duane and Anne Benson, Yulia Borjte, 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, Richard Liermann, Stephanie Maass, Penny McCullough, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Betty Orlando, Kristen Patterson, Barbara Raedeke, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Scott Schmidt, 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, Catreta and Dennis.

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

**SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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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