

## **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

### **The Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 11, 2026**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

*Welcome to Saint Mark's!*

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**



**Please note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**An Order for Holy Communion; Setting Two, Lutheran Book of Worship**

*A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font at this time.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
Calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

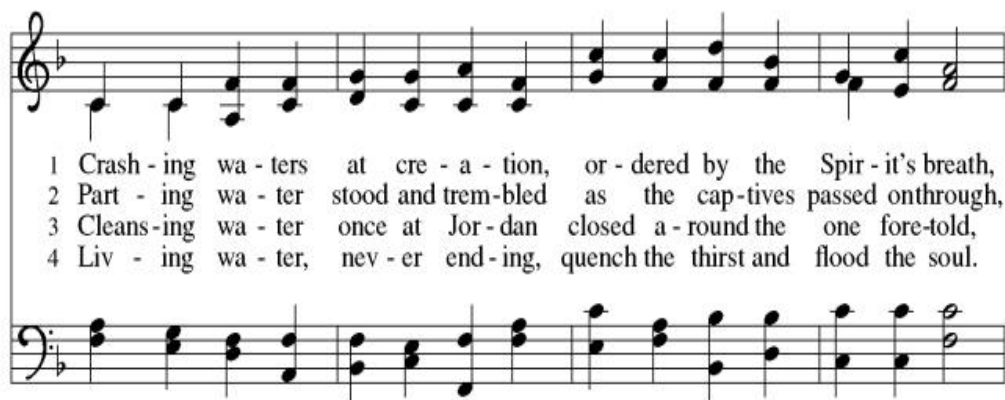
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you proclaim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for your gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love..

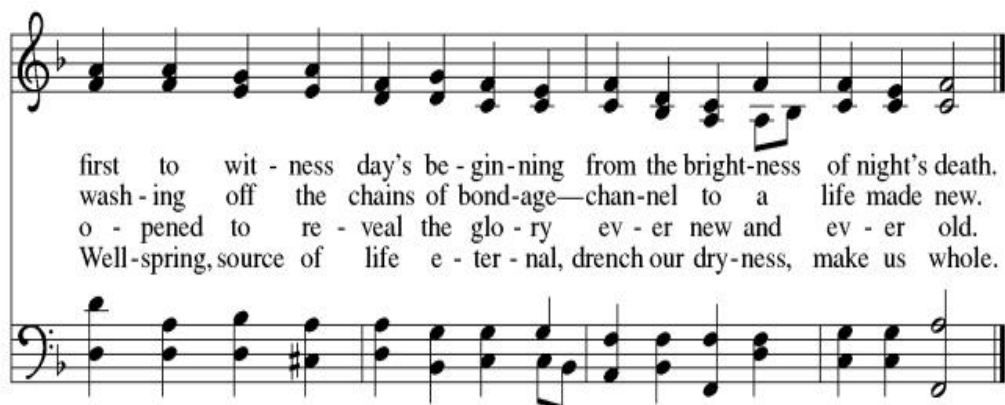
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN                      Crashing Waters at Creation                      No Reference Available**

### Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,  
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age—chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

## \*THE 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.**

## \*KYRIE



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



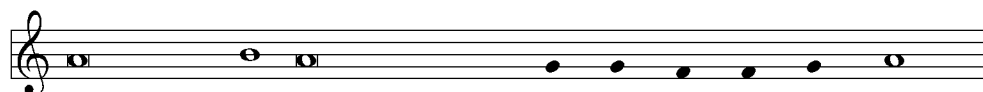
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- <sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;
- <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- <sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- <sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.
- <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup> The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

## THE SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that

he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

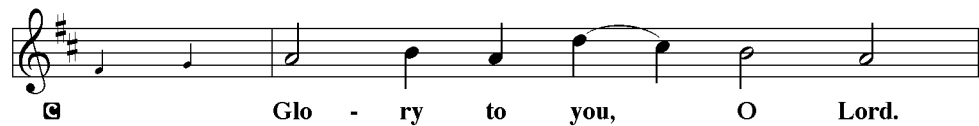
**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



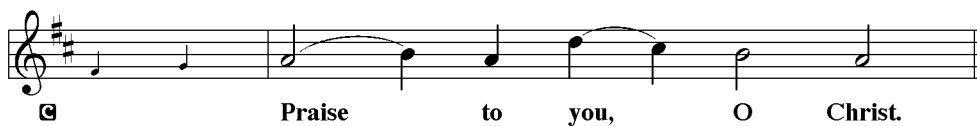
### **\*THE GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.



### **THE SERMON**



**\*HYMN**

**When Jesus Came to Jordan**

**WOV, “Blue”, 647**

**When Jesus Came to Jordan**

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;  
he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.  
He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:  
to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune  
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## **INSTALLATION OF 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in Thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of our Congregational Council. The following persons, having been elected to the positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their names are read.

*The names of the elected Council members are read.*

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to stand and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

The Apostle Paul writes: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all (1 Cor. 12:47).” You have been elected to, positions of leadership and trust in his congregation.

*The pastor addresses Council Members:* You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that' the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one

Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation. On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully perform the duties of the office to which you have been elected?

***Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.***

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.**

I now declare you installed as Council Members of this congregation. May the Holy Spirit bless you as you seek to serve Christ in this place. **Amen.**

Let us welcome these leaders of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition: Merciful God/Hear Our Prayer*


### **\*THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*People may greet one another with these or similar words.*

### **OFFERTORY**

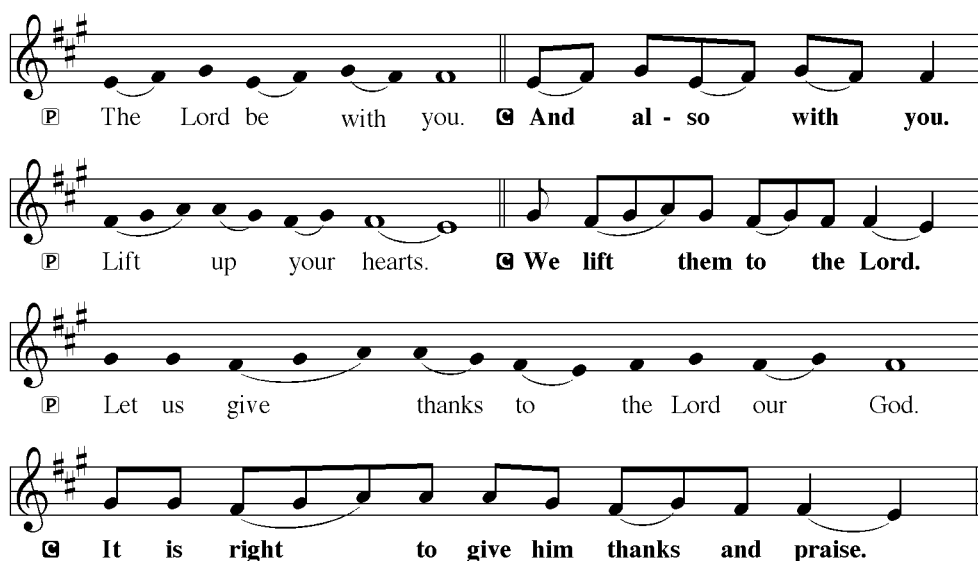


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

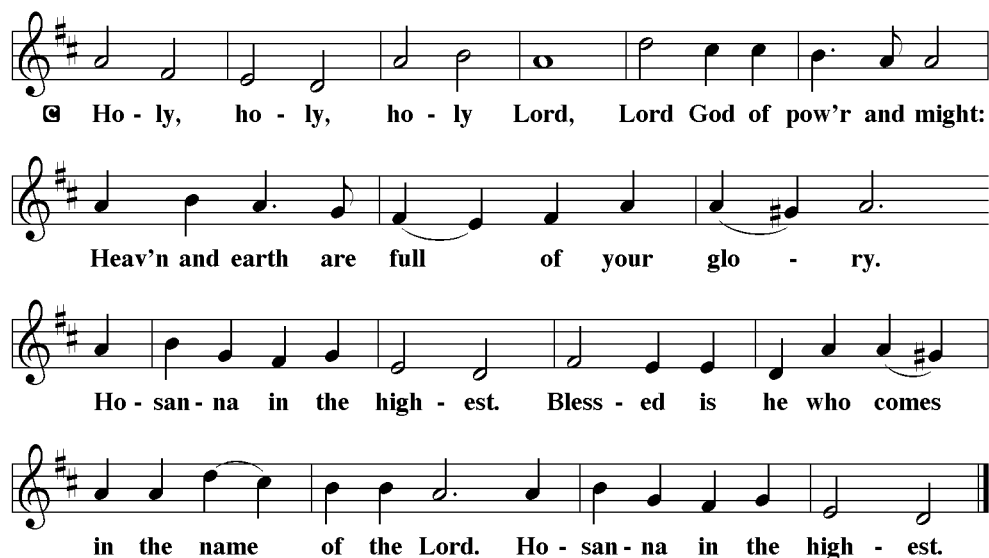
God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are:   
Staff 1: [P] The Lord be with you. [C] And al - so with you.   
Staff 2: [P] Lift up your hearts. [C] We lift them to the Lord.   
Staff 3: [P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.   
Staff 4: [C] It is right to give him thanks and praise.   
The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#), a common time signature (C), and a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some measures containing rests.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Sharing our life he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
 The promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
 the words of the prophets; and the gift of your Son,  
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will,  
 even to the giving of his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it,  
 and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat.  
 This is my body given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper,  
 he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink saying,  
 "This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people

for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We rejoice in the hope of his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we who share in Christ's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

One God.

Now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

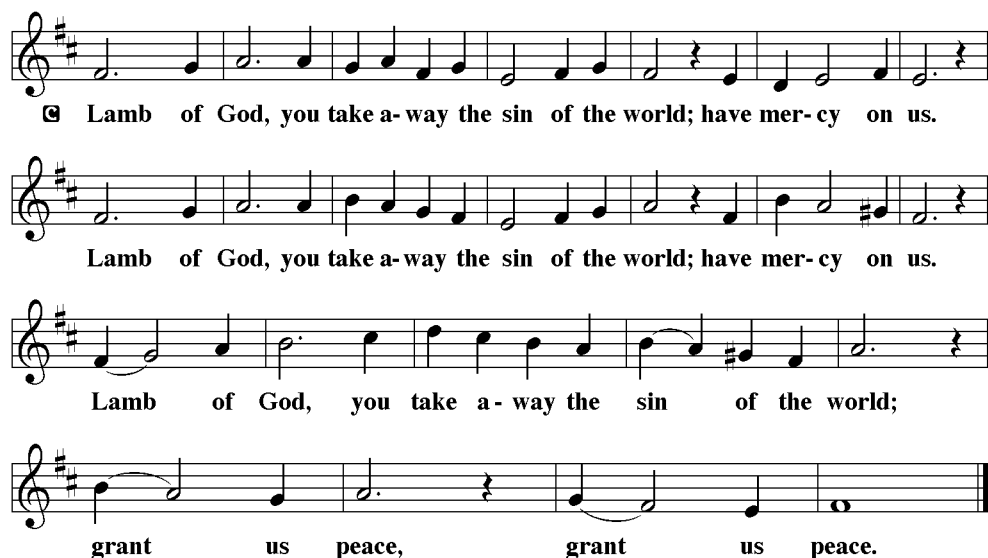
**thy kingdom come,**

**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.

### **\*LAMB OF GOD**



☞ 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.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

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

**Thanks be to God!**

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.*

*Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.*

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

### **\*BLESSING**

May Almighty God,  
Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit,  
bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN     The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve     WOV, “Blue,” 723**



## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy to like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to blind pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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### OUR PRAYER LIST

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Carol Waltz, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, and Ann & Charles Kuntz.

## COMMEMORATIONS

### **Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968**

*Thursday, January 15, 2026*

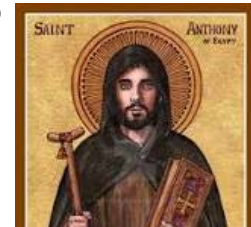
An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.



### **Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356**

*Saturday, January 17, 2026*

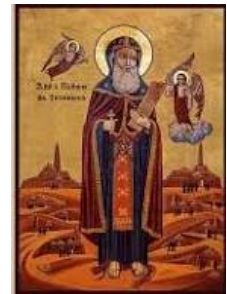
One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit (a solitary monk). Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.



### **Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346**

*Saturday, January 17, 2026*

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and later organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.



## **THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

Today, January 11

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Monday, January 12

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Little Lambs Liaison, 12:15 pm

Tuesday, January 13

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

West Branch Conference, 9:30 am

Wednesday, January 14

Office Hours, 9 am- 1pm

Thursday, January 15

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Friday, January 16

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Saturday, January 17

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP for January 4, 2026**

Regular Offering	\$5,523.00
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Plate Offerings	20.00
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Christmas & Advent	5.00
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Initial Offering	95.00
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Capital Fund	10.00
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Synod Benevolence	20.00
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,673.00</b>
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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of Alice & Gilbert Lloyd, by Beverly Hieber; and

In honor of Jackie Kinney's birthday, by Shirley Kinney; and

In honor of Andrew and in memory of Peter on their birthday, by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for January 11, 2026**

Lector	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
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	10:30 am	Shelby Weber
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Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
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	10:30 am	Matt & Wanda Fortin
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Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
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	10:30 am	Shelby & Gary Weber
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Hospitality	8:00 am	Herb Poff
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Organist		Sam Robinson
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Altar Guild (JANUARY)		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann
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### **BIRTHDAYS**

Jackie Kinney	1/13	Donna Boston	1/17
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Riley Weber	1/14	Beth Miller	1/17
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Anna Zeigler	1/15	Ruth Rees	1/17
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Laura Zeigler	1/15		
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### **KEEP IN MIND:**

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that it may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



So we are done for this year however, please do not stop thinking about the kits and the items for them! Watch the clearance racks and shelves for items and snap them up. If you do not want to store them at home, you can bring them to the church and put them in the office opposite the middle lounge - you will know which one it is - the messy one with boxes, etc. Baby clothes, towels, etc. can be found on clearance. Deb Buckman



**WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN?** Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The meeting with our insurance rep, Chris Fellon, will be Monday, Jan. 19 at 10 AM - starting in Middle lounge then doing a tour. Please let me know if you are coming so Chris can make the appropriate number of handouts. Thanks - Deb



**Urgent Needs At.....**

**Shepherd of the Streets:** All or any hygiene items are greatly appreciated.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, cleaning wipes, Lysol spray, and boxes of tissues.

**United Churches Food Pantry:** Please consider continuing to offer non-perishable food items to be used by the Pantry.



As a congregation, we have been most generous with our donations to various nonprofits in our community. Below are two thank you notes from folks we have helped in 2025.

- Dear St. Mark's Lutheran,

We are so grateful for the many ways that we partnered together in ministry this year. Thank you for all your donations to our Blessing Box ministry. We look forward to all that we'll do together in 2026 and beyond.

Wishing all of you a season full of hope, peace, joy and love.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brad and  
everyone at  
New Covenant UCC

- Dear St. Mark's Lutheran,

On behalf of Danville State Hospital, I would like to thank you for your continued support over the years! Because of your generosity, we are able to ensure all of our consumers (residents) are receiving gifts and having a little brighter Christmas. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Merry Christmas,  
Amy Shepperson,  
Volunteer Coordinator, DSH

**A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:** We are in need of communion assistants for the 10:30 am service. If this is something you would be interested in, please call the office at 570 323-4619. Thank you!!

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