

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you!

January 7,
2024



The
Baptism of
Our Lord

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1st Saturdays - Chapel*)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

in-person & streaming

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618.233.9809

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor

PLEASE wear a **mask/face covering** *if* you are **exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

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 walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

Parish Hall and Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. 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.

PRELUDE & WELCOME *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten; 13th C Plain Song”* Arr. by Martin

GATHERING HYMN **“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” ELW 445** *Please STAND*



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.

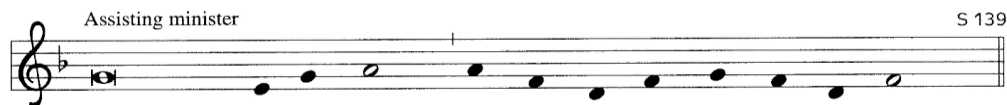


Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther,



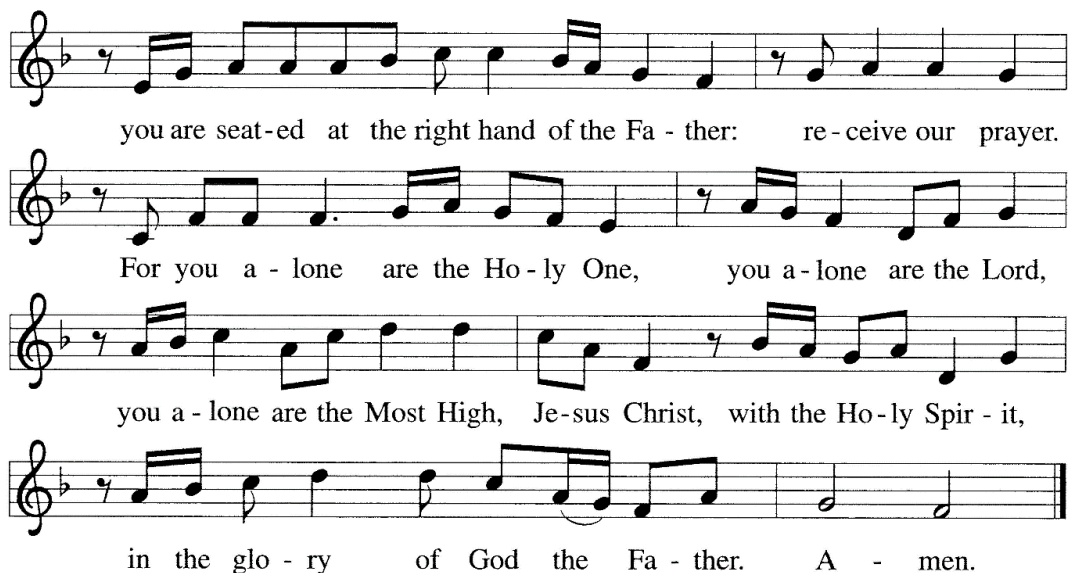
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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;



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *The assembly is SEATED.*

WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

PSALM 29 *spoken responsively between leader and congregation by half verse*

¹Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.

⁷The voice | of the LORD

bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

⁹The 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!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;

give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of

Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Following the Gospel, please SIT.

SERMON

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, on this feast day we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The assembly makes affirmation: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **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 God of grace, is **hear our prayer...***

Eleanor Benton, Dave Brauer, Rick Crosby, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Mary Hill, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Sandy Purdy, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, & Barb Wurdinger

MEAL

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Please be respectful to those who wish to do so from a distance. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments*

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.

ANTHEM "I've Just Come from the Fountain" St. Mark Voice Choir arr. by Daniel Kallman

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray... Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

S 144a

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

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

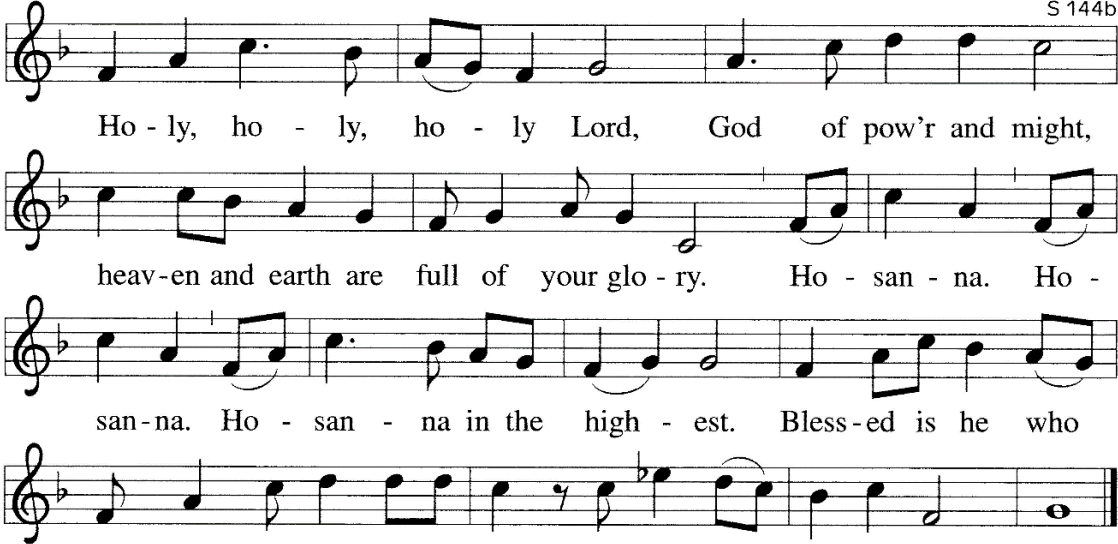
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... and join in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

S 144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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.

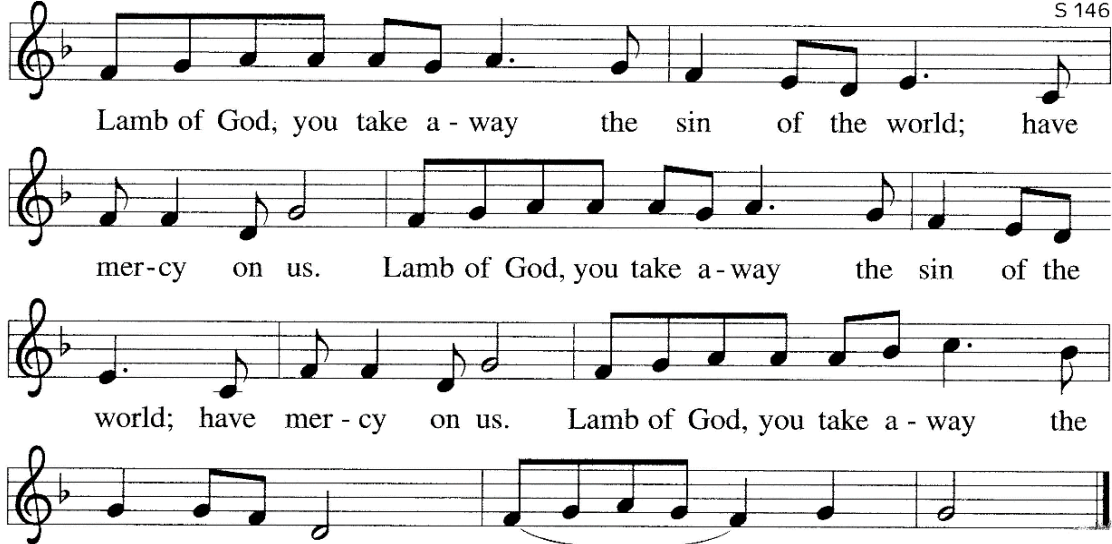
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

LAMB OF GOD

S 146



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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Please SIT*

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.*

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” ELW 308

1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,

God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!

Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -

ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life

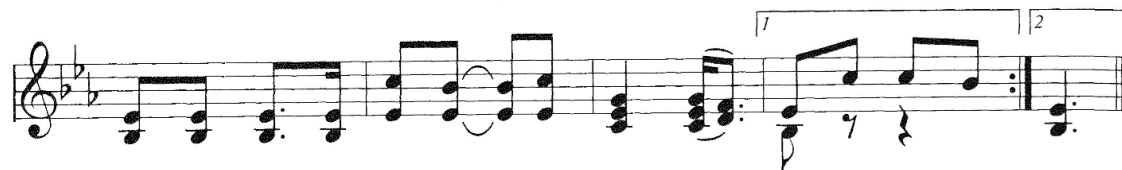
in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

"I've Just Come from the Fountain"

WOV 696



I've just come from the foun-tain, I've just come from the foun-tain, Lord, I've



just come from the foun-tain, his name's so sweet. O Lord, I've sweet.



1 O broth-er, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.
2 O sis - ter, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.
3 O sin - ner, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.



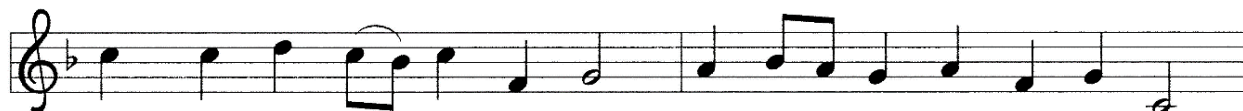
Broth-er, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've
Sis - ter, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've
Sin - ner, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've

After the distribution is complete, the assembly **STANDS** for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the One who names you, who claims you, and who dwells in you – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

ACS 942

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“*Fuge in C Major (The Fanfare Fuge)*”

by JS Bach

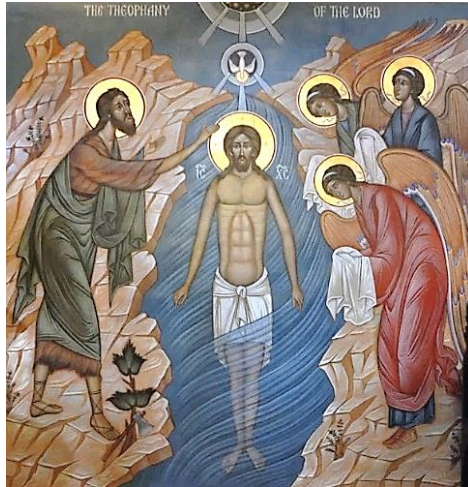
MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister & Cantor:** Danielle Tribout

Crucifer: Rex Rothgangel + **Chalice Bearer & Camera Operator:** Mike Murakami

Lector: Charlie Duncan + **Organist:** Carol Kugler

Ushers: Frank Dressel & Jason Martens + **Safety Volunteer:** Cathie Shurtleff



Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Dave Brauer, Rick Crosby, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Mary Hill, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Sandra Purdy, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, & Barb Wurdinger

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Dorothy Cheek, Christine, Catherine Davis, Brian Dinges, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Taiylar Foppe, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Donna Koudelka, Austin Lickenbrock, Becky Loeschner, Elroy Luffman, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Michelle Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Kris Whitley, Louise Wilson, Elisabeth Woodrome, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

St. Mark Thanksgivings

We pray for those who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Diane Maes (1/7), Mike Foppe (1/7), Christina Wagner (1/8), Peggy Andersen (1/9), Taylor Currie (1/10), Devin Kilzer (1/10), and Steve Bamvakais (1/12)

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones:

The family of **Dolly Reed** (Anita Robinson's aunt) (12/31)

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MARK TIMES

News & Notes for January 7, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday 1/8:** 9:00AM Health & Wellness meeting – conference room
- Thurs. 1/11:** 1:30PM Evangelism & Social Ministry meeting - conference room
6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday 1/14:** 10:30AM Adult Forum: “*The House of Peter?*” led by Pastor Brian



Diaper Drive for Epiphany!

As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive will run January 7 through 14. Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

Diapers sizes 4 through 7 and pullups sizes 2T and 3T are most needed. Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or provide monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR> through January 15th.

Neighborhood Watch Opportunity for St. Mark & St. George's

The Joint Safety Committee has identified a neighborhood need our churches might be able to help with. St. George's has begun the process of organizing a Neighborhood Watch (NW) program, and they have invited St. Mark to participate. Beyond wanting to be helpful to the neighborhood, we have our own interest in neighborhood safety and health. Organizational leadership, facility support, and hosting quarterly meetings are just a few of the ways our churches could support a NW program. Anyone interested in serving to implement this endeavor, please contact Mark Bearth, mark.bearth@gmail.com.



Thank You, Thank You! We wish to thank the St. Mark congregation for their generous Christmas gift for 2023. We all feel so blessed to serve this congregation in the different ways we are called. May all of us continue to be blessed and thrive in 2024! Thank you and Happy New Year!!

~Evelyn & Charlie Duncan, John Andersen, Gary & Marilyn Huffman, Carol Rugler, and Randi Cardoza

Thank You to all who contributed to the financial gift from the congregation and those who gave individual gifts, including those who fed my addiction to cookies and sweets! I continue to be deeply touched by your tremendous generosity. - *Pastor Brian*

SHARE THE WARMTH Project Continues!

Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie **5000 Blankets**, our collection of **GENTLY USED or new blankets, hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs** for the homeless in our community will run thru January 31.

The collection bin in the Narthex/Canterbury Room has overflowed several times and we are almost to our 125-blanket goal!

Donations have been distributed to:

St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry; Union United Methodist Church homeless program; Belleville Christian Center; Moms on a Mission in Dupo; Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois

Check your closets to see how many blankets you have that will help keep our homeless a little warmer this winter! A collection can is in the Narthex.

Do you or someone you know have the talent of knitting and/or crocheting? FREE yarn is available to anyone (member or non-member) to make hats, mittens, gloves, scarves for this project. Contact Peggy Anderson 618 791-0992 for your FREE yarn.

St. Mark T-Shirts

Inspired by imagery from the popular *Indiana Jones* film series, the winning design from our t-shirt contest is ready to order!

Adult shirts sizes S-XL are \$19.50 including tax 2XL, 3XL, 4XL & 5XL are \$22.75 including tax. *Payment is required when the order is placed.*

Orders **must** be placed through **Rich's Stiches**

<http://www.richsstichesemb.com>. When the webpage opens, scroll down to **Online Stores**, then scroll down and click on St. Mark Lutheran Church. **The ordering window will remain open until January 31, 2024.**

For those who are not computer oriented, you may contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 with your order and payment information.



It's a New Year!

It's a great time to do something new and different, like **joining the choir**! Rehearsals are at 7:15PM on Thursdays. No tryouts or solo voices needed; just a love of singing, a desire to praise God, and the ability to more-or-less carry a tune. One or two bell ringers are also needed. Just see Music Director Carol Kugler for more details or to sign up!



St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 (Christmas Eve) & 12/31: General Fund: **\$2,895.55** (*incl. online offerings received by 12/29*); Disaster Relief: \$25