

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 9, 2025**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir

11:00 am - Quiet Service

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Emil: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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GUESTS/VISITORS:

“Getting to Know You—Getting to Know All About You.” Please complete a “Welcome to St. Mark Church” card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God’s glory. “Who will go for us?” God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn’t catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

Friday, February 14, 2025

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY
WHO WINS?**

**CHICNS?
SUPER DUPER TOMATO SOUP-ERS?**

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES’ CLIENTS ARE THE REAL WINNERS!

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

PRELUDE

One Step He Leads

P. Choplin

Duet: Tina Freidhof and Terri Hopkins

GATHERING: Psalm 118:24

P This is the day that the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***GREETING**

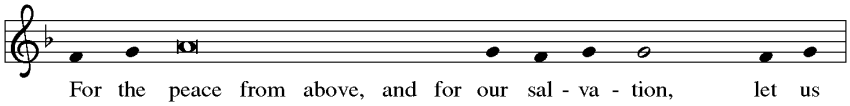
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***KYRIE**



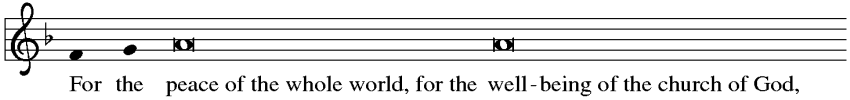
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**




For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



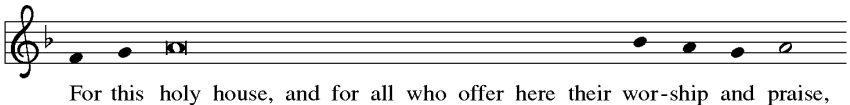
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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

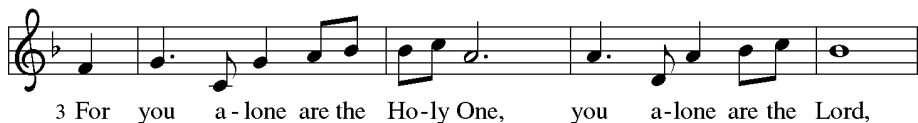


seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

(Continued next page.)



3 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,
C and also with you.

P Let us pray.
Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you
angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your
power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds
of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Trust and Obey

Words by J. Sammis and J. Smith/
Music by J. Smith

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 6:1-13

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

R A Reading from Isaiah.

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

⁹ And he said, “Go and say to this people:
‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’”

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:
“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak

(Continued next page)

SECOND LESSON: 1st Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.

R A reading from 1st Corinthians.

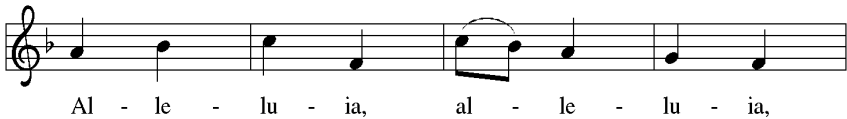
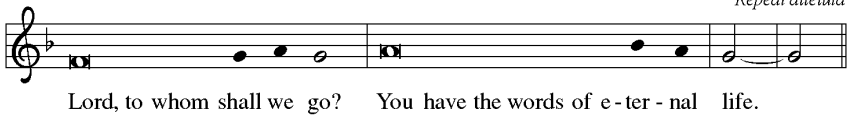
¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA VERSE



*GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 5th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled

their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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*APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for
the church, the world, and all of creation.

A God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain
hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Great Physician

W. Hunter

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

- P** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
- C** Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

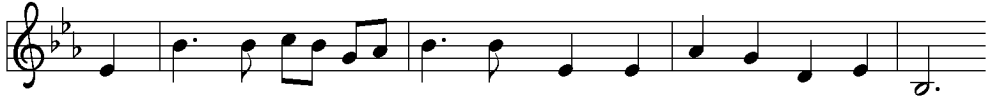
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

P May God the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you
with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in hope.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Celestia

Danish Melody



In honor of my granddaughter, Tessa Thomas' February 10th birthday, by her grandma, Karen Fisher.

In honor of my daughter, Kelley Weist's February 12th birthday, by her mom, Karen Fisher.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Susan Fissel, Dave Harnish
Assisting Minister:	Tina Freidhof
Lay Reader:	Bev Reihart
Acolyte:	Caroline Stull
Altar Guild:	Muretta Yentzer, Sara Jane Miller
Council Money Duty:	Jo Ann Novinger, Denise Hirn

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, February 9

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
11:00 am

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY ENDS
Blended Worship Svc.
Sunday Church School
Children's Choir
Worship Svc.

Monday, February 10

2:45 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons
Roller Skating Party at Olympic
Skating Center
German Group

Tuesday, February 11

6:30 pm

WinGS - Guest Speaker from The
Diaper Bank - ALL WELCOME

Wednesday, February 12

11:00 am
1:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm

Bible Study
Finance
Bell Choir
Adult Choir

Thursday, February 13

Friday, February 14

3:45 pm

ReMarker Deadline
Violin Lessons

Saturday, February 15

Sunday, February 16

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
11:00 am
1:00 pm

6th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
Blended Worship Svc.
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Worship Svc.
FUSE Meeting at St. Stephen

LESSONS:

FIRST READING
PSALM
SECOND READING
GOSPEL

FEBRUARY 16, 2025
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1st Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

ROLLER SKATING PARTY

Join us tomorrow night, **February 10**, at Olympic Skating in Enola from **6:00 pm—8 :00 pm** for an evening of roller skating. Bring your own skates or rent them for \$3.00.

ALL ARE WELCOME—WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE (WinGS) MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

WinGS will be holding their February meeting on **Tuesday, February 11, at 6:30 PM**. We are inviting anyone that would like to attend to join us. We are hosting a presentation by Amanda Barnes, Executive Director, Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, a non-profit organization. Even if you're unable to attend, **please consider donating a package of diapers. They are in need of sizes 2, 3, 4, and 6**. You can drop your donation off the night of the meeting or outside the choir wing in the hallway. We hope to see you there and thanks for donating!

COLLEGE AND MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

The Youth and Family Ministry Committee would like to assemble and send care packages to our military personnel and college students. If you have a military person or student that you would like to receive a care package, please provide their name and mailing address to Michele Connor (via email to crashdog68@aol.com or text to 717-579-4640) **no later than February 16**.

COLLEGE AND MILITARY CARE PACKAGE DONATIONS

Due to rising shipping costs, we are in need of contributions to cover postage. If you would like to help, please mark your donation for **Youth and Family Care Packages**.

We are also collecting items to include in the care packages. The following items are most needed:

- Hot chocolate packets, tea, or coffee
- Snack-sized candy bars, granola/cereal bars, gum
- Instant oatmeal, microwave popcorn, fruit snacks
- Pop-Tarts, pudding, applesauce, crackers, cookies, pretzels
- Post-It Notes, pencils, pens, highlighters
- Gift cards
- Kleenex, lip gloss
- Fun items like deck of cards or card games

Please feel free to donate any other items you think would be appropriate, as long as they fit in a shoe-box sized box. Donations can be placed in the **Upper Room** or given directly to **Michele Connor** no later than **February 16**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Following are the items for **February, March, and April:**

February 16

March 16

April 27

Peanut Butter and Crackers

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups

FUSE MEETING

Attention Families! St. Stephen Church, New Kingstown, will be holding their **Fuse Meetings** on the **3rd Sunday of each month (February 16), at 1:00 pm**. A lunch meal is always served. Bring a side dish to share! This meeting is for kids of any age, 0-18, and a supportive adult in their life, in whatever form that is (parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, older siblings, extended family, etc.). You don't need to attend St. Stephen Church to attend Fuse! Anyone is welcome! We will have a meal, do some activities and learn a lesson. So come Fuse with us!

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 23**, immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary.

LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

Reservations have been confirmed at **Theos Bar & Grille, 3315 Hartzdale Drive, Camp Hill, PA** for **Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 pm**. Come, bring a friend, and join in the fun, delicious food, and fellowship.

TACO TUESDAY EVENT

Everyone is invited to St. Mark on **Tuesday, March 4, for TACO TUESDAY NIGHT**. The Fellowship Committee is hosting this fun event which will begin at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending and enjoying delicious tacos before the first day of Lent, March 5. And—**bring a dessert to share**. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Mihalich, Chair, Fellowship Committee at 717-697-0227.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

St. Mark will have Ash Wednesday services at **Noon and 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 5**. Join us as we start the Lenten journey to the cross with Jesus.

LENTEN BREAD AND BROTH SUPPERS

Come share a soup meal with your friends at St. Mark in our **Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm every Wednesday evening in Lent (March 12-April 9)**. After each meal, we hope you join us in the sanctuary for an **interactive service at 6:45 pm** as we explore the Bible's "metanarrative." There will be separate special activities for kids during each service.

Here is a link to Theo's website: <https://www.theosgrille.net/>

SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS:

March 12	WinGS
March 19	*Open Donations
March 26	Church Council
April 2	*Open Donations
April 9	Worship & Music (including choirs)

When your group is providing soup, keep in mind that we will need 6 to 7 pots of soup. Everyone will have a chance to sign up to bring in soup on *Open Donation nights. Sign-up sheets will be posted at entrances to the church for soup donations and/or to assist with cleanup after the dinner. As a reminder, if you are coming for the meal and are not providing soup that week, please bring a salad, bread, or a dessert to share. To further assist us with cleanup, we ask that you pack up any of your leftovers at the end of the dinner. Or if you desire, take out containers will be available to share your leftovers with others. If you have any questions about the dinner, please contact Phyllis Mihalich, Fellowship Chair.

MARCH FLOWER SPONSORS

We are in need of flower sponsors for March 16, 23, and 30. If you would like to sponsor one or both vases, please complete one of the forms located in the newsletter, bulletins, or entrances to St. Mark or contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244. Thank you.



February 9	Soup-er Bowl continues through February 9
February 10	Roller Skating at Olympic Skating, Enola
February 23	Annual Congregation Meeting
February 27	Ladies & Friends Night Out at Theo's
March 4	Taco Tuesday - All Invited
March 5	Lent begins - Ash Wednesday Services
March 12	Bread and Broth Begins
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 20	Easter Sunrise Service
April 20	Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Day

-WORD SEARCH-

Fishers of Men

J B T G X L I J N T D D W G I N L T Z H E Q K Q
H B O A N D K G Z L W J Y K Y B B R O T H E R S
L E F J K D C I G Y K R V M M M J N E T P U C D
J Q H E P P F T F B T C F C I P K K N P L I J G
O D S S O M O V O I K I B V W D I D C J H C V U
U G V U T Y L B R K M L G B A X Q Z D G J H T R
F Q G S H J L U S C C J S S B A E H Q J D M N R
H Q W O S B O V H G M N J G H E T B A P V R A X
D L P R B O W J G V K Z I J X B O A T W J J P K
M W S T R V M W A K I W T D X P D A J N H O J U
C I U U H L B G G N V O Z A W A J R N H Q I H E
X V N A U W N J A M E S X E T I O Y E Z F N P J
V N K W Z C E F C P V L H S Y M Z H F M S I I M
P E T E R Z E C H P N U Q U C M V M N L A E K K
C N J E R A A U U U D M T Y U H Q C R I S U Y K
M O A V Q N S H O R E O F T U A K S I K E Q I W
Q M Y O A B B N T O Y B C W C P M T K C L E J D
D E P B J G H T Z J J D R Y Y S T Z F B P K Y P
W N F A F F M U O E F I S H I N G V N W I H J K
W D V G D Y S Z D C S I C B Y U I B S W C L V Z
I I E P G A N D R E W D S Q H A R Q U W S N N O
M N V H E R M S E A O F G A L I L E E T I K A X
N G T O W V K Z V J O K B H R D Z L G T D H Z T
E W L O H L H V V S Y W B L U O B K A K U I D K

Sea of Galilee

mending

Andrew

Peter

boat

Disciples

Fishing

shore

Jesus

Net

brothers

follow

James

John

Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Phone #: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

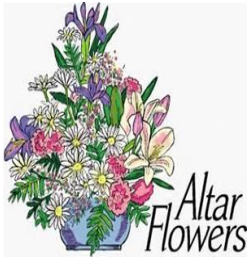
Date Requested: _____

- Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office



Please check any that apply!

- Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-697-0436 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

A TOO-SMALL GOD?

Does the Lord's presence make you uncomfortable? This question may seem odd: after all, don't we call our worship spaces "sanctuaries"? Our readings today, however, feature people who, in their contact with God, are moved to express their unworthiness. A vision of divine glory overwhelms Isaiah with the holiness of "the Lord of hosts," before whom he is "a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). After condescendingly agreeing to follow Jesus' fishing directions, Simon discovers just how little he knows and cries out, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8). Paul tells how he had rejected what God did in raising Jesus from the dead. All three faced revelations of God's greatness that dwarfed their expectations. These surprises evoked responses quite foreign to our culture of self-affirmation: a consciousness of their own unworthiness before such a glorious God.

While we probably don't want people diving under their pews during worship, a God before whom we feel fully composed and confident is not the "holy, holy, holy . . . Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3) seen by Isaiah. Do we settle for a tame God, one who happens to approve of everything we do and disapprove of whatever we don't like?

As these stories continue, they show us that a full vision of God's holiness need not leave us shaking in terror. God's true glory is mercy. A heavenly being cleanses Isaiah's lips, and he is sent to Israel as God's messenger. Undeserving Paul becomes an apostle. Jesus tells Simon, "Do not be afraid," and he receives a vital role in the Savior's mission (Luke 5:10).

The gospel reveals that God's holiness does not destroy sinners but, rather, consumes *sin* through forgiveness. Before we could ever deserve it, the waters of baptism wash us with grace. God's greatness becomes small for us in the Christ child, in the simple words of absolution, and in a taste of bread and wine. Forgiven and healed, we—blessed despite our unworthiness—are now sent to share the good news.