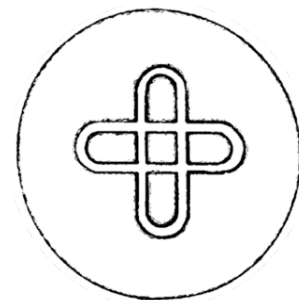


St Mark Lutheran Church

Service *of* Holy Communion



Welcome to this divine service of worship!

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.

The obelisk (†) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.

The double obelisk (‡) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.

Uniting in Worship + Growing in Wisdom + Serving in Love
to embrace all in response to God.

February 23, 2025: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

9:00am & 11:00am

Prelude

Preparation for Our Liturgy

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

‡ Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

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. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch, Part II, Stalsund, 1665*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
 3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
 4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!

My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.

Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
 Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
 Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,

Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
 sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
 in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing.

†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.**

†Gloria



Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, 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; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

continued →

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

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

A reading from Genesis:

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

“And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40



Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.

**Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart’s desire.
Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.
The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.
Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.
For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.
In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.

**But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.
But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.
You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will | rescue them
from the wicked; you will deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge.**

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50*

A reading from First Corinthians:

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

†Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

†Gospel: *Luke 6:27-38*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

†Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*


Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Tune: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Refrain

†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

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

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts, including.... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

†Peace and Offering

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!



Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, **and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
you call light from the chaos of our creation,
you bring light to the long night of our exodus,
you still promise light through our prophets of old.

Blessed are you, O Light, in our valley of the shadow of death,
whom our shadows cannot overcome;
blessed are you, O Light, in our Lord Jesus Christ,
who, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it for them to eat, 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 them to drink, saying,
“Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering Christ Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension,
we pray his light to so shine before others through us, all to your glory in heaven.

Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus’ body and blood in, with and under them;
and bid us by these means of grace to come to him,
whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

Through him all honor and glory is yours, Holy Father, with the Holy Spirit,
One God, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

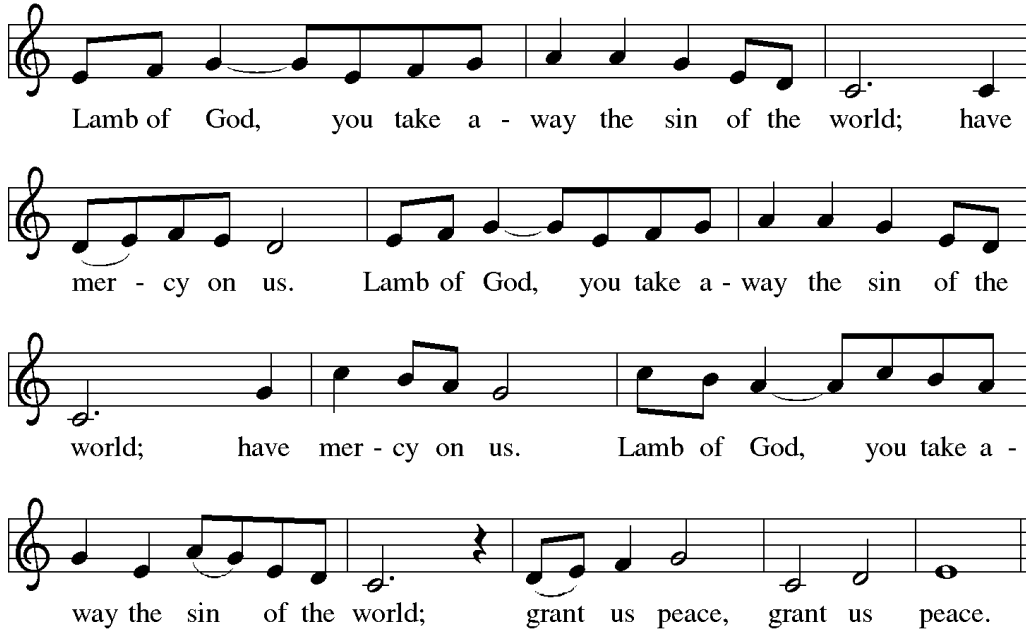
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei



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.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: *Walk Humbly With Your God*

R. Powell

†Post Communion Blessing

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

†Nunc Dimittis



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a simple, melodic style with lyrics underneath. The first four staves contain the main text, and the fifth staff contains the concluding phrase. The music ends with a double bar line.

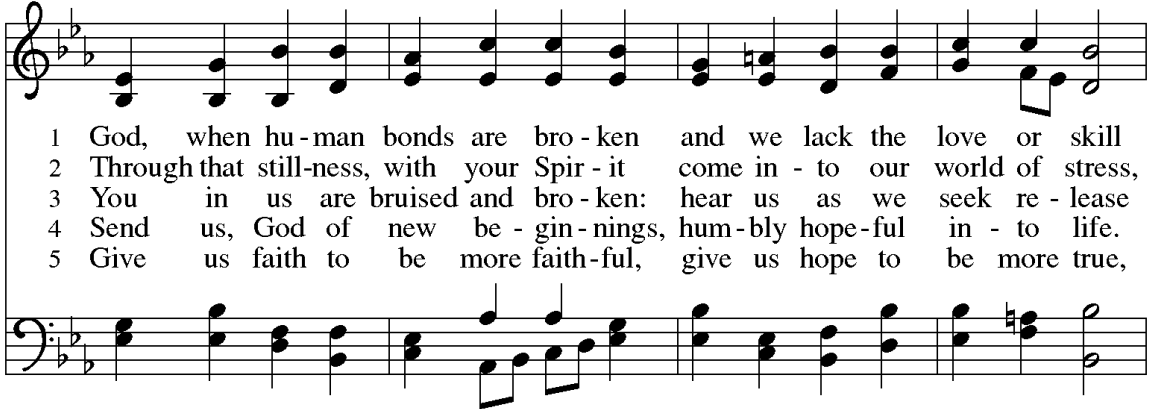
†Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD smile on you and be gracious unto you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

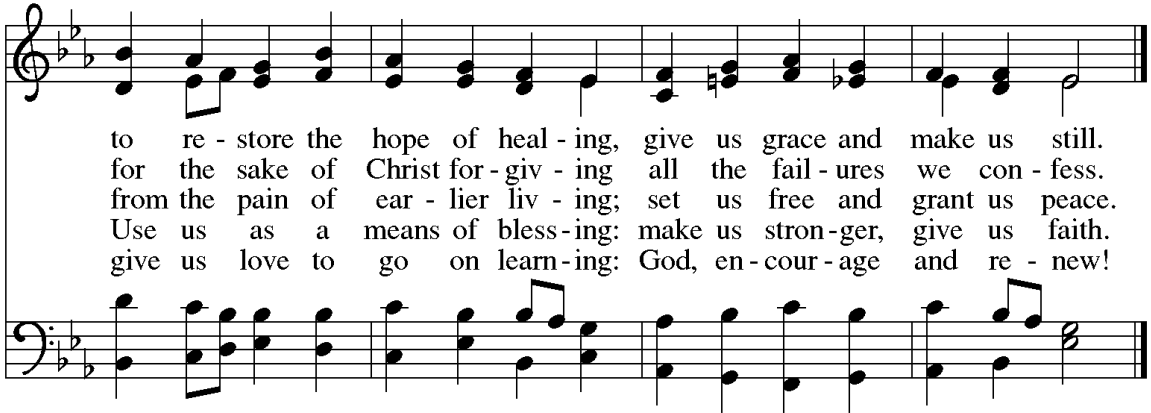
†Hymn: *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken*

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Tune: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing all the fail - ures we con - fess.
from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless - ing; make us stron - ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

†Dismissal—*from 3 John 1:2*

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with each one of you, and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Christ's body and blood; all people are welcomed to receive God's blessing in the love and life of Jesus for you today and always.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands with rubbing alcohol, the pastor will dip the host into the cup and offer the bread and wine together; to receive the host without wine, please inform the pastor with words or by placing a hand on your chest. Truly Christ is fully present in each element separately. Christ is for you.

Communicants will come forward to the feast in continuous procession.

PJ's reflection on the Gospel

There's gotta be a limit to this love.
Don't gutters line the way of being good
to drain the hate that cannot be withstood?
There's gotta be an edge to ethics of
acceptance— depths below and heights above
which righteousness won't reach. But, Jesus, would
it be your way to tolerate— or could
it be divine to witness— sin and cover
it with mercy? How can I stand by
and love my enemies who rise and hurt
my neighbors? Isn't greater love to die
for other's safety than to give the shirt
from off my back? O Child of the Most High:
can you abide by love as you assert?

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