

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their hymnals, bulletins, and to sing and speak loudly! We value the noise made by children!

If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.

Visitors, we are especially glad to see you. Please come again!!

*God's Blessing,
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church*

— The **BOLD** is read by the **Congregation**—

*The Small Church with a **Big** Heart*

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
 they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
 and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

[^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
 and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water
 whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.]

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

The psalm will be read responsively by the congregation

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
 and have great delight in God’s commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

[¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.]

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which

God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



ELW 142

GOSPEL:**Matthew 5:13-20**

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.*Please be seated.***CHILDRENS SERMON****SERMON**

Pastor Lue Moua

HYMN OF THE DAY*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.***Blest Are They****ELW 728****728**

Leader or All

APOSTLES' CREED

Gathered together, let us confess our faith...

**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

Each petition ends with: ...Merciful God,

The congregation responds: **Receive our prayer.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

You can send your offering through the mail to :

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206

Randolph MN 55065

*or download the **Vanco Mobile** app on your mobile phone
or go to our **website** and click on the give button on the top.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

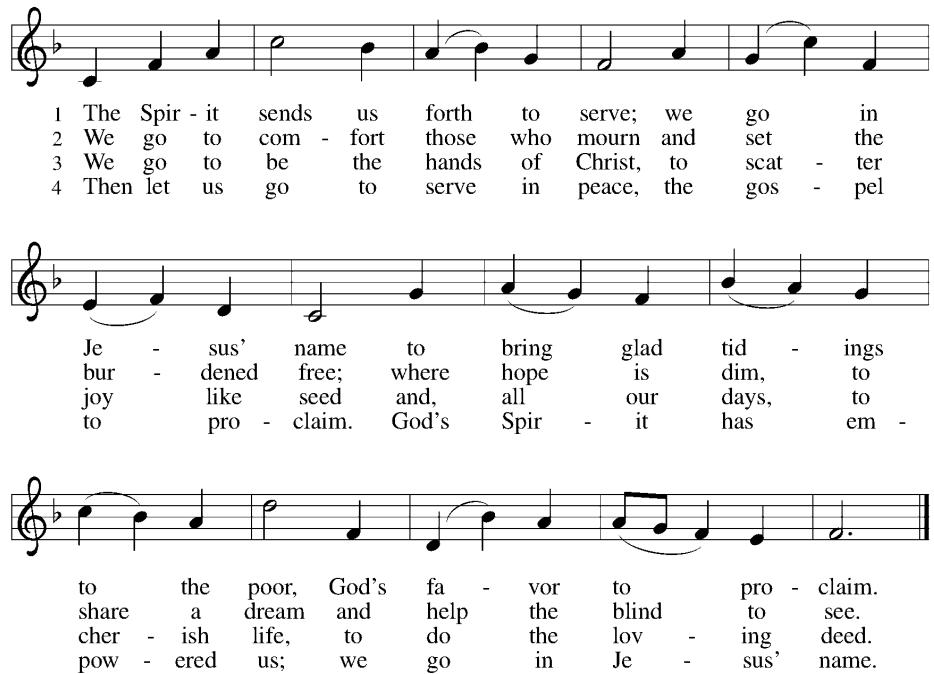
The Lord look upon you with favor and **☩** give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 551

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 like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to 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.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Thank You!

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us today. We sincerely pray that the service was inspiring, and comforting. If you find occasion to worship with us again, please know that we appreciate your presence. If you are looking for a home church, please let the pastor know by phone, email, or text. Wherever you go, may God be at your side and bring you peace and joy.



Prayer Requests

Cami Zeien (friend of Besters & Otte's) Dan Harris,
Marc Slininger, Dan & Samantha Doar (friends of Shelby Kuhn),
Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballards sister), Candace Volkert, Keith Bester,
Dennis Kuhn, Carolyn Chester, Austin Burlage, Tim Mulvihill,
Don Otte, Sarah and Jim Otto, Mary Ohmann,
Kou Thao (Nou Moua's Dad), Jerry & Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's parents),
Nicole Anderson, and her family.

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Sharon Kappedahl,
Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Wayne Weidner.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently, especially:

The family and friends of Dean Sathre.

Events this Week:

Council Meeting - Monday 7:00 pm

Bible Study - Tuesday 9:30 am

Quilting - Tuesday 10:30 am

Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

No Church School - Sunday

Worship - Sundays 10:00 am

Announcements

Community Events

Community Food Shelf

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Tuesday 8:00 am to 9:30 am

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food.

College Student Food Shelf Invite

The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf.

We want to help with your expenses during these years.

Please come when the Food Shelf is open or
at 9 am before Church on Sunday or
contact Beth Bester at (651) 246-9301

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

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