

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY**



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
February 8, 2026



# LITURGY AT SAINT MARK'S



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**HOLY EUCHARIST**  
February 8, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
ELW 3

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**PRELUDE**

*Air Varié*

McKay

*A time of silence is kept in preparation for worship. People may move about the worship space at any time to light candles at the prayer stations in the front or to write prayer petitions on the cards provided, placing them in the prayer walls at the back. Please silence cell phones.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **MISSION MOMENT**

## **GATHERING**

*The assembly stands.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Mighty God, lover of justice,  
you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.  
We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly turns to face the cross at the entrance of the nave.*

**GATHERING HYMN** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* ELW 843

## **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Lord God, with endless mercy  
 you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.  
 By your Spirit show us the things you call us to do,  
 and give us the grace and power to do them,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> 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?

<sup>7</sup> 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?  
<sup>8</sup> 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.  
<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> 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 God”—<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*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: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:]<sup>13</sup> “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.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

**ELW 726**

*The assembly stands.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
  
You are our God. We worship you.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

We are dependent on your strength and guidance as we seek to follow Jesus. Keep your church true to the mind of Christ. Amplify our works and witness to bring hope to a troubled world.  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales, and any threatened species from harm. Renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to zones of conflict, especially Ukraine, the Holy Land, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and all places of heightened immigration enforcement. We pray for justice for all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including the Haitian community, as they struggle to retain their legal residency. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. Thank you for their lives of faith and for your promise that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

**CHOIR ANTHEM** (8:30 service)

*Have You Not Known*

Scott

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also send your offering to us by mail or go to our website, [www.stmarks-spokane.org](http://www.stmarks-spokane.org), and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or you can text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 and you will receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.*

*The assembly stands. The table is set.*

## 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 the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

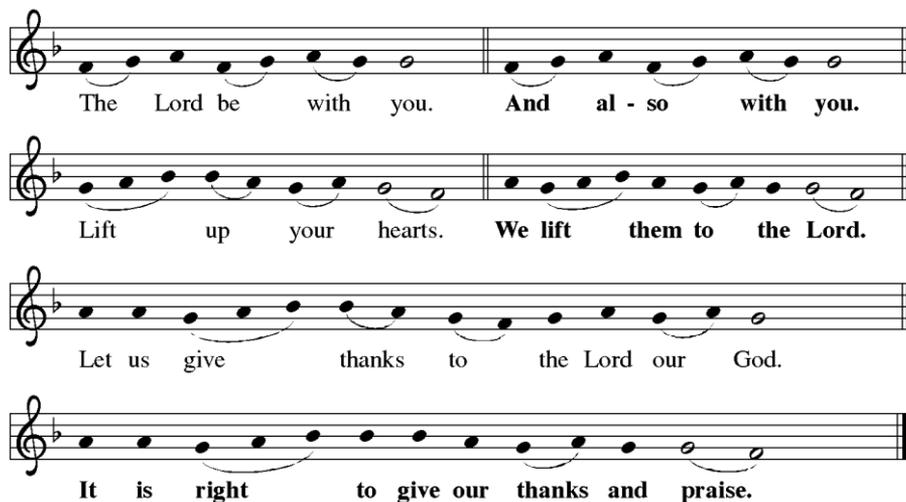
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

## DIALOGUE



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

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

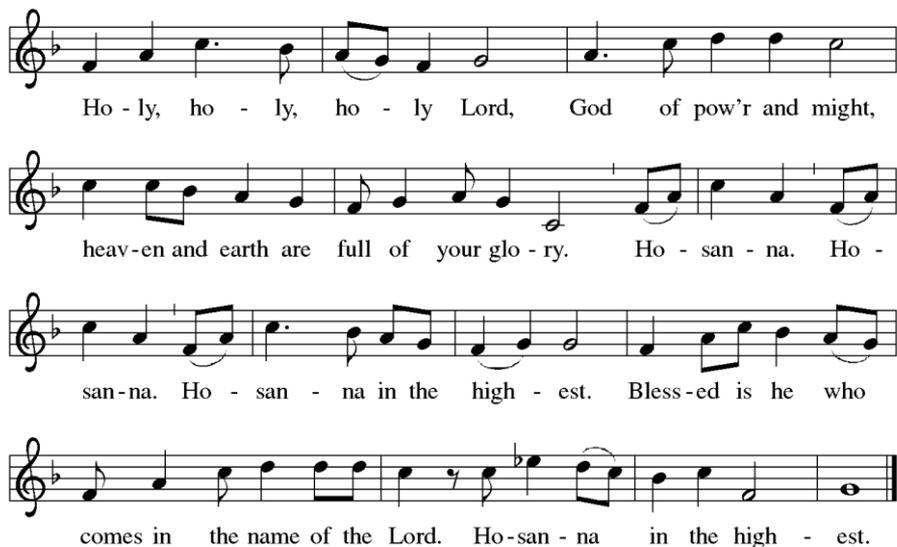
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

*The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving with the Preface for the day.*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving including praise for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise.*

*The thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION**

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## 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.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Christ, our Host, welcomes all to the table—where we feast on his promise of forgiveness and life in the bread and wine. Those wishing to receive communion come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you desire a gluten-free option, please take a wafer from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. Kneel or stand at the rail, filling in from the center aisle to the sides. A communion minister will offer you bread, and you may choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty glass in the tray located at a side aisle before returning to your seat.*

*If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. Simply let an usher know.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond: **Amen.***

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The assembly stands.*

Let us pray.

Radiant God,  
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 our Life.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

*By Jan Richardson, from "Circle of Grace"*

Blessed are you who bear the light  
in unbearable times,  
who testify to its endurance  
amid the unendurable,  
who bear witness to its persistence  
when everything seems  
in shadow and grief.

Blessed are you in whom the light lives,  
in whom the brightness blazes—  
your heart a chapel,  
an altar where in the deepest night  
can be seen the fire that  
shines forth in you  
in unaccountable faith,  
in stubborn hope,  
in love that illumines  
every broken thing it finds.

In the name of the + Triune God.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*      **ELW 545**

*The assembly turns to face the cross as we are dismissed to love and serve.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace and humility. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**      *Festival Prelude on "Lancashire"*      Martin

○ **Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** ○  
316 E 24th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203  
509-747-6677  
stmarks-spokane.org

Worship attendance cards are located in the pews.

After listing all attendees (members and visitors) the card may be placed in the offering plate.

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## **ST. MARK'S STAFF**

Pastors	Edwin Weber Gretchen Olson
Parish Administrator	Jane Somers
Communication Coordinator	Loris Stupel
Office Coordinator	Susan Hagen
Volunteer Coordinator	Gina Bloom
Pastoral Assistant/Visitation	Tom Fallquist
Youth Program Leaders	Calvin Moore Rachel Peterson
Live Stream/Sound Coordinator	Randy Darst
Alleluia Choir/Godly Play Coordinator	Kendra Chapman
Director of Music/Organ	Carol Miyamoto
Director of Music/Choral	Ann Benson
Sexton	Gib Dominguez

## **Congregation Council**

Council President: Ira Gardner, Jr.

Council Members: Ben Baker, Kate Bassett, Patti Berg, Sue Connelly, Janet Farness, Mary Hoenecke, Theron Miller, Michelle Phelan, Susan Pine, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers.

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Affirmation of Faith from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.