

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 8, 2026

Liturgy at SAINT MARK'S



HOLY EUCHARIST

SETTING: ELW 4

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

PRELUDE

Auf meinen lieben Gott

Buxtehude

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

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. 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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

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

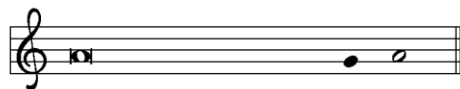
GREETING

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



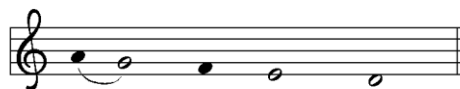
Lord, have mer - cy.



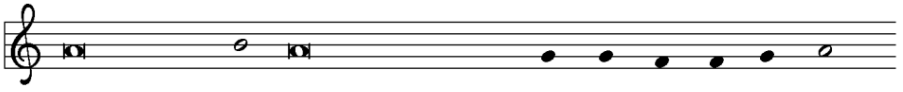
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water,
you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.
Give us this water always.
Bring us to drink from the well that flows
with the beauty of your truth
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from Exodus.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

Refrain



O my peo - ple, do not hard - en your hearts, but
lis - ten to the voice of the Lord. O my
peo-ple, do not hard-en your hearts, but lis - ten to God's voice.

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1. Come, sign out with joy to the Lord;
praise the God who saves us.
With thanksgiving come be-fore the Lord,
with songs let us praise our God.

Refrain

2. Come in; let us honour the Lord,
as we kneel before our God and maker
The Lord is our God, the Lord is our God,
and we are the people God shepherds and guides.

Refrain

3. If, today, you should hear the Lord,
do not harden your hearts
as your ancestors did in the desert,
when they doubted, though they saw God's work.

Refrain

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” ² (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), ³ he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ☩ ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ☩ ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that

I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.”³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.”³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap

that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” 🌹³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to the Water of Life



1	All who are thirst - y	for mer - cy,	all who are thirst - y	for
2	All who are thirst - y	for heal - ing,	all who are thirst - y	for
3	All who are thirst - y	for beau - ty,	all who are thirst - y	for
4	All who are thirst - y	for jus - tice,	all who are thirst - y	for



love;	all who are thirst - y	for love,	for mer - cy,
touch;	all who are thirst - y	for touch,	for heal - ing,
truth;	all who are thirst - y	for truth,	for beau - ty,
peace;	all who are thirst - y	for peace,	for jus - tice,



come:	come to the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come to the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come to the	Wa - ter	of	life.
come:	come to the	Wa - ter	of	life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The assembly stands.

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send snow to the mountains and rain to thirsty ground where drought and diminished snowpack threaten communities and crops. Bring relief to places harmed by flood and storm, especially Holden Village and all regions recovering from destructive waters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Restrain violence and deescalate rising tensions between the United States, Israel, and Iran, and among all nations and people. Reconcile us across the lines of politics, race, class, nationality, and faith. Shield the vulnerable from the forces of violence and oppression and turn every scheme that defies your justice toward your peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

** Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society (†1913 and 1883). Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until abolition. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.*

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.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you."

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC
(1045 a.m.)

O Love

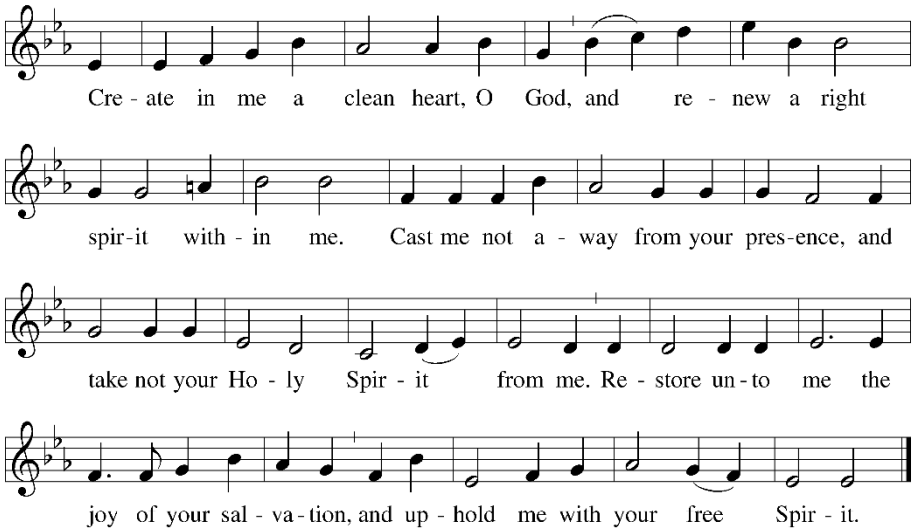
Elaine Hagenberg

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 by mail or go to our website, www.stmarks-spokane.org, and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 to receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.

The table is set. The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY



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 un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

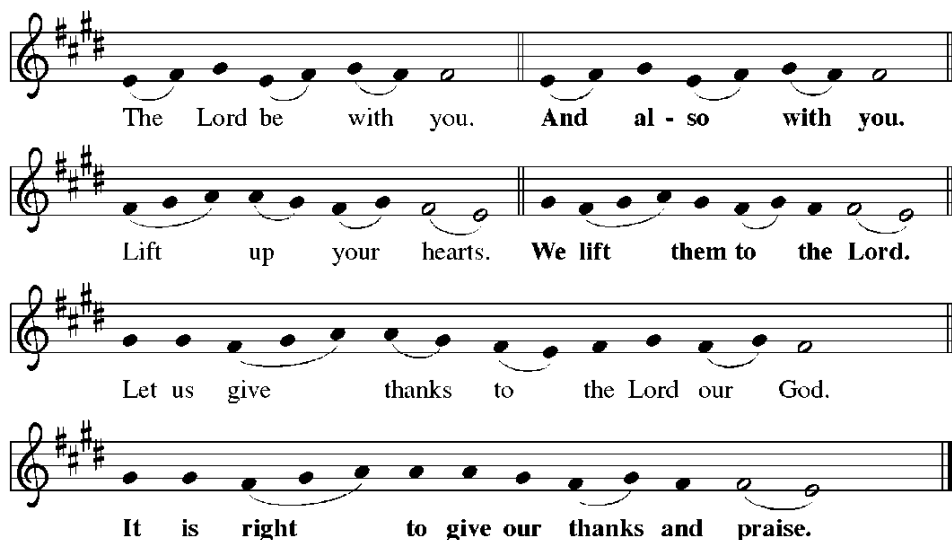
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and snow and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOG



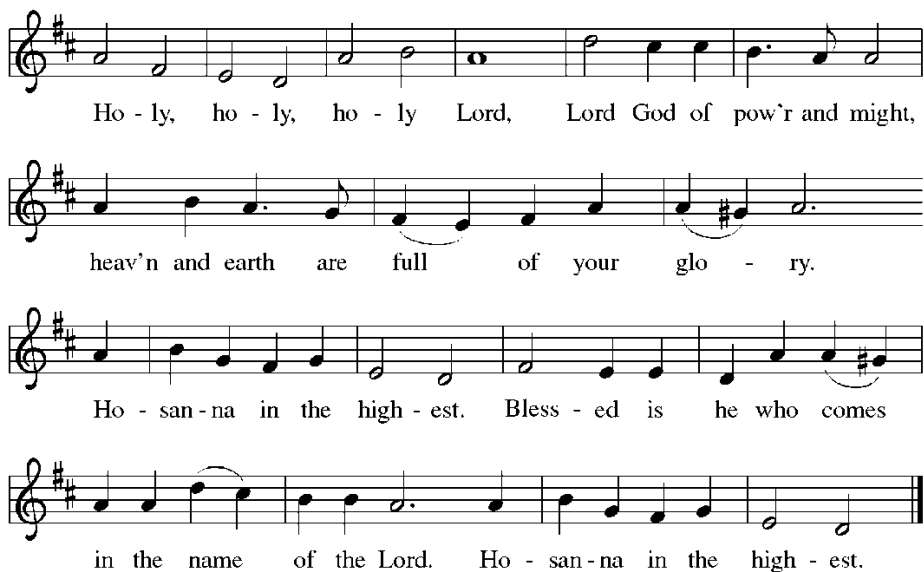
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

During the thanksgiving, the assembly may respond with the following acclamations:

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

LORD'S PRAYER

*Native American paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer
by Hattie Corbett Enos of the Nez Perce Tribe*

**O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,
You are our Shepherd Chief
In the most high place,
Whose home is everywhere
Even beyond the stars and moon.**

**Whatever you want done,
Let it also be done everywhere.
Give us your gift of bread day by day.**

**Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil,
For everything belongs to you.
Let your power and glory shine forever.
Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ, our Host, welcomes all to this table of grace. Here at St. Mark's, we believe that in the bread and wine, Jesus is truly present drawing us into a community of love and mercy. You do not need to be a member of this congregation to receive. Come as you are, for the gifts of God are for you.

To receive, come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please take one from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. You may kneel or stand at the rail, filling in from the center toward the sides. Receive the bread from a communion minister, then choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty cup in the tray at the side aisle as you return 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.*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of our salvation,
thank you for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Amen.

BLESSING

Adapted from "Blessing for Lent" by Jan Richardson, Circle of Grace

Hope nonetheless.
Hope despite.
Hope regardless.

Hope where you had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed your hope.

With Hope that draws you past your limits,
Hope that questions what you have known,
Hope that makes a way where there is none.

With Hope that takes you past your fear,
Hope that calls you into life,
Hope that holds you beyond death,
Hope that blesses those to come.

Hope, in the name of the + Triune God.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

No Deeper Well



1 No deep-er well than the font that both claims us and sends us.
2 Each day re - born we re - joice that Christ lov - ing - ly claims us.
3 Deep sto-ried wa - ters wash o'er us, trans-form-ing, tran-scend-ing.



No rich-er grace than our God's, that so mer-ci-f'ly tends us.
Each day or-dained and sent out by the Ris-en who names us.
Bap - ti-sm's flood sweeps a - way all proud hu-man pre - tend - ing.



Wa - ter and Word! Faith that is both seen and heard.
Marked with his cross, All gain now count - ed as loss.
Wa - ters a - bound: O - cean, creek, riv - er, and sound



Gift for each day, yet gift end - less.
Breath of God's Spir - it sus - tains us.
Stream - ing with grace nev - er - end - ing.

Text: Paul E. Hoffman

Music: Joachim Neander, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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LOBE DEN HERREN

14 14 4 7 8

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hymne

Peeters

• **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.

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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