



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod.

The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly.

In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Thanks be to God!

DECEMBER 28, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte:

Lay Reader:

Greeters:

Ushers:

Assisting Minister:

Crucifer:

Communion Assistants:

Council Duties: Jonathan Ray, Susan Williams

Attendance last Sunday, December 21st was 74 (includes YouTube Live viewers).



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 AM

DECEMBER 28, 2025

**Please stand as able*

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

Setting 2 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.....Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! 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. **C: Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

vs. 1,3-4

ELW #283

***KYRIE (Setting 2) Pastor sings the verses, assembly sings the refrain.**

ELW p.120-121

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

LESSONS

Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

"Alleluia"

ELW p.124

GOSPEL READING

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

Matthew 2:13-23

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Word Of God, Come Down On Earth"

ELW #510

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p.127

***PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation,.....Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

INSTRUMENTAL SPECIAL

OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"

ELW #885

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)

ELW p.130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION: II

ELW p.134

*THE LORD'S PRAYER P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all who believe Jesus is Lord to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. An usher will guide you to the center aisle to receive communion. You may return to your seat by the outer aisle. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand and communion will be brought to you. After communing all who wish may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

ELW p.135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"What Child Is This"

ELW #296

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER

A: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. C: Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. Together let us proclaim our mission:

C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God's love. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

ELW #289

*Dismissal: P: Glory to God in the highest! C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin F. Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2025 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre/Mark Oakley
Secretary: Patricia Hoke
Preschool Co-Director: Randyl Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright