

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Epiphany – January 26, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

In mystery and grandeur,

we encounter the God of all creation.

In renewed justice and the promise of new life,

we know deep love of Christ.

In the wonderful diversity in every community,

the Spirit of God moves among us.

Let us worship the God of beauty, love, and wisdom.

We will praise God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

Hymn 9 God's law is perfect

**1. God's law is perfect and converts
the soul in sin that lies:**

**God's testimony is most sure
and makes the simple wise.**

**2. The statutes of the Lord are right
and do rejoice the heart:**

**the Lord's command is pure, and doth
light to the eyes impart.**

**3. Unspotted is the fear of God
and ever doth endure:**

**the judgements of the Lord are true
together, right and sure.**

**4. They more than gold, yea much fine gold,
to be desired are
than honey, honey from the comb
that droppeth, sweeter far.**

**5. Moreover, they thy servants warn
how they their life should frame:
a great reward provided is
for them that keep the same.**

Prayer of Praise (minister)

Hymn 495 The heavens declare your glory, Lord

1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!

**In every star your wisdom shines,
but when our eyes behold your word,
we read your name in clearer lines.**

**2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise
to all the earth, and never stand,
so when your truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.**

**3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest
till through the world your truth has run,
till Christ has all the nations blest
who see the light or feel the sun.**

**4. Great sun of righteousness, arise
and bless the world with heavenly light!
Your gospel makes the simple wise;
your laws are pure, your judgements right.**

**5. Your noblest wonders here we view
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make your word my guide to heaven.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**Merciful God, you call us to be your presence, your body in
this world. But too often we get caught up in being a hand
or a foot and lose sight of the mission you set before us. We
go our separate ways, forgetting we need each other to be
whole. Help us see with new eyes and hear with new ears,
the liberating Holy Spirit who strengthens, revives, and
enables us to be and to do.**

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon *(minister)*

Hymn 480 In Christ there is no east or west

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**
- 3. Join hands, companions in the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who loves and serves the one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 4. In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north,
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 19 p. 470 New Testament with Psalms

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

**² Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.**

³ They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

**⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.**

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

⁵ It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

**⁶ The sun rises at one end of the heavens
and follows its course to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.**

⁷ The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

**⁸ The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

⁹ Reverence for the Lord is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;
each one is fair.

**¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.**

**They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.**

¹¹ They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

**¹² How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

**¹⁴ May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

New International Version (NIV)

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Scripture Lessons

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 p. 389 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a p. 298 NT with Psalms

Luke 4:14-21 p. 107 NT with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Parts to play

Prayers of the People (minister)

Offering & Offertory

Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

Creator God, you made each of us in our uniqueness, and together, you made all of us to bear your image in the world. Accept our gifts, unique as they are, and bless them for the sake of your Son, Jesus. May they bear his grace and mercy into the world you love so your purposes will be fulfilled. Amen.

Communion Hymn 537 Twas on that night

- 1. 'Twas on that night when doomed to know
the eager rage of every foe,
that night in which he was betrayed,
the Savior of the world took bread,**
- 2. and after thanks and glory given
to God who rules in earth and heaven,
that symbol of his flesh he broke,
and thus to all his followers spoke:**
- 3. "My broken body thus I give
for you, for all; take, eat, and live;
and oft the sacred rite renew
that brings my wondrous love to view."**
- 4. Then in his hands the cup he raised,
and God anew he thanked and praised;
the fullness of God's grace he showed
and from his lips salvation flowed.**
- 5. "My blood I thus pour forth," he cries,
"to cleanse the soul in sin that lies;
in this the covenant is sealed,
and heaven's eternal grace revealed."**
- 6. "With suffering love this cup is given;**

**let all partake the wine of heaven,
and when you gather, let it pour,
in living memory of this hour."**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we give you thanks and praise.

In your Son Jesus Christ the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory, that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light.

How wonderful are your ways, almighty God. How marvellous is your name, O Holy One. You alone are God. Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners.

Obedying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory we will celebrate victory with him.

As we break this bread and share this cup in Jesus' name, with your people here and in every place, we recall the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and cup, that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us.

Here we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. In your mercy, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Fill us with the joy of eternal life, that we may be your faithful people until we feast with you in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Pouring of the Cup

The Revelation

Partaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 479 The church's one foundation

**1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation
by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought us
that we might ever be
his living servant people,
by his own death set free.**

**2. Called forth from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation,**

**one Lord, one faith, one birth,
one holy name professing
and at one table fed,
to one hope we are pressing,
by Christ's own Spirit led.**

**3. Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
But soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5. We now on earth have union
with God the Three-in-One,
and share, through faith, communion
with those whose rest is won,
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.**

***Benediction**

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude