

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – February 8, 2026

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux (SOTO), Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

So does God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather together, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder.

trusting that God's peace and love are present here.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

Hymn 208 In the cross of Christ I Glory

**1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.**

**4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 291 Thou Whose almighty Word

1. Thou whose almighty word

chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light!

2. Saviour who came to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!

3. Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

4. Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
let there be light!

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

O God, we confess we often take your creation for granted. We squander your gifts as if we made them ourselves. We ignore our responsibility to care for the earth in its fragile beauty. We dismiss those who work the soil and provide us our food. Sin and pride take over our desires, and we consume whatever we want, selfishly and carelessly. Forgive us we pray.

- 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 505 O Christ, the Word, incarnate

**1. O Christ, the Word incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:**

**we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern for our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.**

**2. Your people hold this treasure
from you, its source divine,
a light that to all ages
throughout the earth will shine;
it is the chart and compass
that all life's voyage through,
'mid mists and rocks and tempest,
still guides, O Christ, to you.**

**3. Oh make your church, dear Saviour,
a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before the nations
your true light as of old;
oh teach your wandering pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, cloud and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.**

¹Praise the Lord!

How joyful are those who fear the Lord
and delight in obeying his commands.

**²Their children will be successful everywhere;
an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.**

³They themselves will be wealthy,
and their good deeds will last forever.

**⁴Light shines in the darkness for the godly.
They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.**

⁵Good comes to those who lend money generously
and conduct their business fairly.

**⁶Such people will not be overcome by evil.
Those who are righteous will be long remembered.**

⁷They do not fear bad news;
they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.

**⁸They are confident and fearless
and can face their foes triumphantly.**

**⁹They share freely and give generously to those in need.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
They will have influence and honor.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 58:1-9a p. 604 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 p. 284 NT & Psalms

Matthew 5:13-20 p. 9 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What's wrong with upside down?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**The prophet Isaiah issued a call to feed the hungry,
clothe the naked and house the homeless. We have
given in response to this call, praying that every gift
accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine through
the power of God at work in us and through us. Amen.**

Hymn 416 Blessed Jesus, at your word

**1. Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our minds and wills be stirred
now to love you and revere you;
by your teachings true and holy
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

**2. All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with the beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us;
you must work all good within us.**

**3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light, from God proceeding,
open now each mind and heart;
help us by the Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude