

# *The Epiphany of Our Lord*

Sunday, January 5, 2025  
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader; **bold text** indicates a congregational response.

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, please use the QR code to the right.



Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

*We stand as we are able.*

Opening Dialog

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn 303

*Brightest and Best of the Stars*

Greeting

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

*The Opening Dialog combines verses from Isaiah 9 and John 1.*

*Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-17*

*The Gloria  
("Glory to  
God...") is a  
continuation of  
resurrection  
praise. With the  
angels we sing  
God's glory re-  
vealed in Jesus  
Christ. Luke  
2:14*

# Song of Praise

*Glory to God*

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

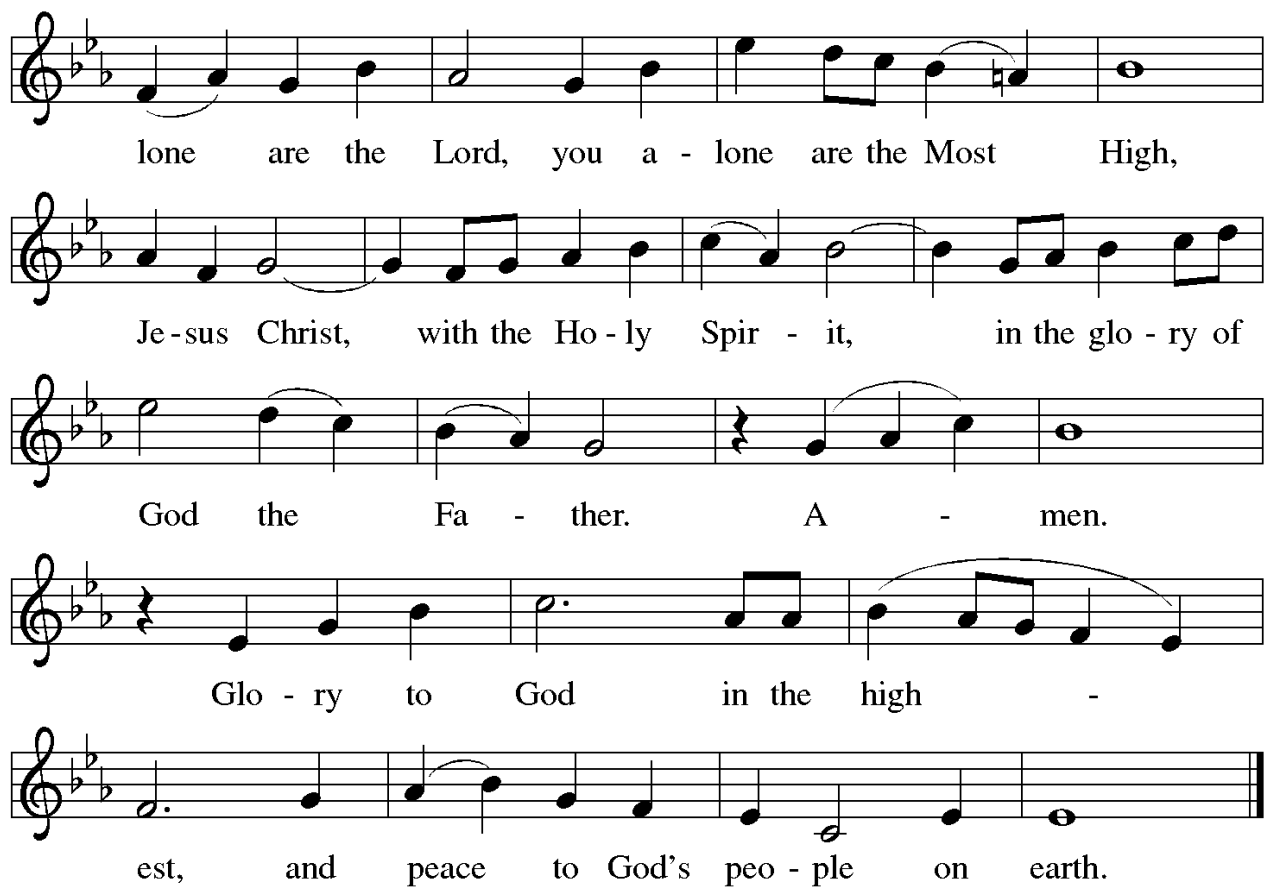
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,  
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.*

#### Prayer of the Day

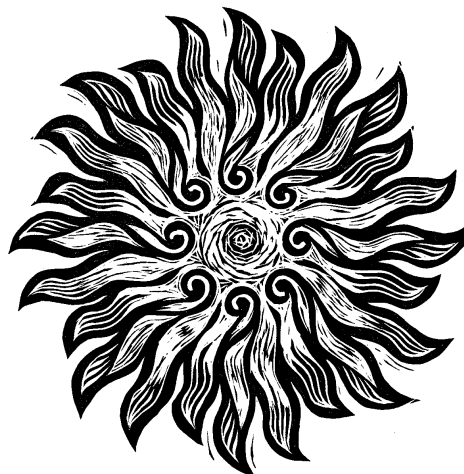
**A** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**A** Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**



*The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.*

*The first lesson is normally from the Old Testament.*

*A Psalm is spoken or sung as a meditation on the first lesson and as a response to it.*

*We are seated.*



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

L A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-12

*We sing the psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the verses in **bold**.*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your | people righteously**  
**and the | poor with justice;**
- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**  
**rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.
- <sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**  
**like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

*The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.*

*Alleluia is from the Hebrew words: hallelu yah, meaning "All of you praise the Lord." We sing this in anticipation of the reading of the Gospel.*

*The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his peo-*

- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the <sup>1</sup> righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall <sup>1</sup> be no more.
- <sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the <sup>1</sup> isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba <sup>1</sup> offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow <sup>1</sup> down before him,  
and all the nations <sup>1</sup> do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out <sup>1</sup> in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who <sup>1</sup> have no helper.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

L A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

*We stand and sing the Alleluias together.  
The choir sings the verse, and we repeat the Alleluias.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Choir: We have observed his star <sup>1</sup> at its rising, \* and have come to <sup>1</sup> worship him. (Matt. 2:2)*

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we ob-

*ple and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.*

*This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.*

*The Nicene Creed (which begins, "We believe..." ) is a statement of faith which dates to the fourth and fifth centuries.*

served his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

*We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.*

Hymn 302

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

The Creed

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

*Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God’s promise of peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11*

*Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord’s service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.*

*As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God’s generous goodness.*

*Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.*

## The Prayers



*Each petition concludes:*

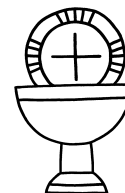
**A** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

# THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

## The Peace

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another, saying “Peace be with you.”*



## The Offering

### Anthem

*De Tierra Lejana Venimos*

For text, see page 12.

*We stand as we are able and sing the Offertory.*

### Offertory

Shin - ing star the ma - gi's sign; wa - ter changed to fin - est wine;  
 Christ bap - tized in Jor - dan's stream; on the moun - tain, glo - ries beam.  
 Light that light - ens all our days, for the love each sign dis - plays:  
 praise the Fath - er, praise the Son, praise the Spir - it, Three - in - One!

### Offertory Prayer

**P** Let us pray. God of heaven and earth,  
**C** from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
 in which you take delight.  
 The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
 Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
 that we may join the chorus of creation  
 to tell of your salvation from day to day.  
 Amen

*The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.*

*The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.*

## 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.

## The Proper Preface

*The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."*

*The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."*

*The Sanctus echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.*

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



*The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.*

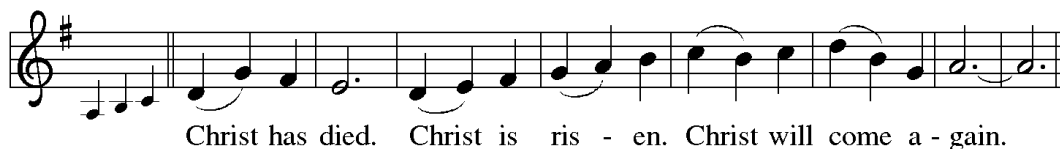
## Eucharistic Prayer

**P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**P** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



**P** With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** All praise and glory are yours,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.



*The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15*

*Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.*

### The Lord's Prayer

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

*We are seated.*



**COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD  
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle, forming two lines to receive communion at the altar rail. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



### Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.  
Amen**


### Blessing

P May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.


**C Amen**




1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*


We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.*

Dismissal

A Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Mark Sedio

***De Tierra Lejana Venimos***

The magi who to Bethlehem did go  
were the heralds of the coming of Messiah;  
and with joy we also would hasten to announce the news today.

From a distant home the Savior we come seeking,  
using as our guide the star so brightly beaming.  
*Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning,  
heaven's wondrous light, O never cease thy shining!*  
*Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven,  
and upon the earth be peace and love to all.*

Glowing gold I bring the newborn babe so holy,  
token of his power to reign above in glory.  
*Lovely eastern star ...*

Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing,  
token of our prayers to heaven ever rising  
*Lovely eastern star ...*

Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus,  
token of the pain that he will bear to save us.  
*Lovely eastern star ...*

- trad. Puerto Rican, tr. George K. Evans

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, January 5 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, January 6	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, January 7		
Wednesday, January 8		
Thursday, January 9		
Friday, January 10	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, January 11	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, January 12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Greeter</b>	Pat Gibbs	Harry Brewbaker & Connie Watkins
<b>Lector</b>	Nan Keenan	Evan Odson
<b>Communion Assistant</b>		
<b>Coffee Hour</b>		

Attendance Last Sunday	36
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$2483.00
Budget (Pledges/Loose)	\$3,173.00



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor*

## Ministers and Staff

*Ministers:* Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Secretary / Financial Administrator:* Kathy Bryant

*Organist / Choir Director:* Jacob Gordon

*Pastor:* James Armentrout

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St. Mark's Lutheran Roanoke

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*Shining Star, the Magi's Sign*—text: Jacob Gordon; music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze.

*Jesus, the Light of the World*—text: Charles Wesley, stanzas, George D. Elderkin, refrain; music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, traditional, arr. George Elderkin