



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 11, 2026
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

Crashing Waters at Creation

David McCarthy

ENTRANCE RITE

We stand as we are able.

Litany

P Arise! Shine! The light for which we have waited is here!

C **Darkness has been banished!**

P God's light of hope floods the earth.

C **God's light of hope comes to us all.**

P Lord, make us ready to journey in your Light.

C **Prepare our hearts to receive the light of Christ!**

Hymn 455

Crashing Waters at Creation

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 3:14-18

The apostolic greeting quotes the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 13:14)

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

Greeting

P 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.**

Gloria

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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,



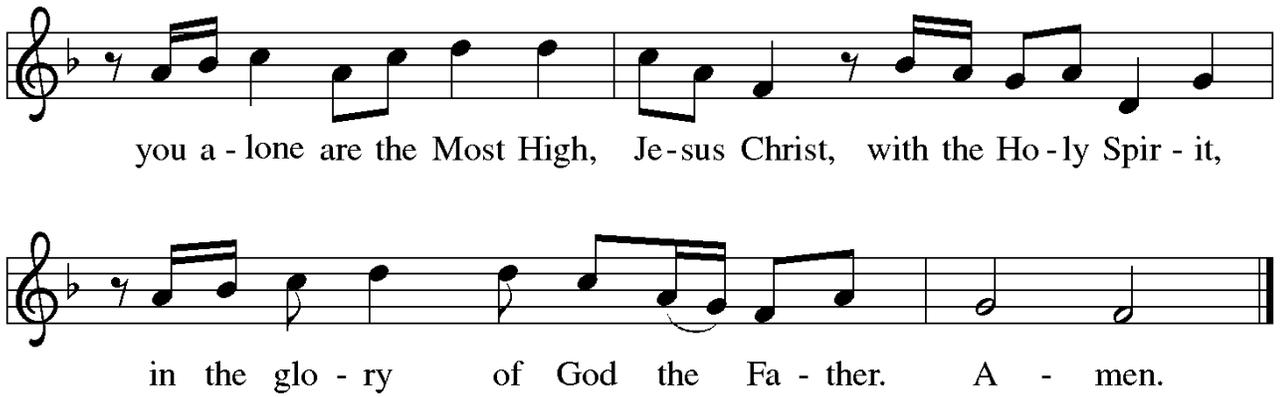
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



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,



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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

We are seated.

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

L A reading from Isaiah.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it

and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

L The word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

A psalm is spoken or sung in response to the first reading.

Psalm 29

*We chant the Psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the **bold** verses..*

Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glo-¹ry and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the ¹mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is a pow-¹erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the ce-¹dars of Lebanon;
the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹young wild ox.

⁷The voice ¹of the LORD
 bursts forth in ¹lightning flashes.
The voice of the LORD ¹shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder-¹ness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹crying, "Glory!"
The LORD sits enthroned a-¹bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for-¹evermore.

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

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

L A reading from Acts.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

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

Hymn

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word



1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal
 2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to
 3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where
 4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and



love re - vealed in time: Come, make your home with - in our
 care, too numb to feel. Come, shine up - on our shad - owed
 we were born a - new. At - tune your church to know you
 hope and love re - new. Come, lead the peo - ples to your



hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.
 world; your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.
 near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.
 peace, as stars once led the way to you.

The Affirmation of Baptism includes the Apostles' Creed, which begins, "I believe..." and is traditionally attributed to the first apostles, working under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It has been known to the church since at least the fourth century.

Affirmation of Baptism

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C 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

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

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

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

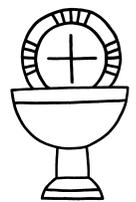
Offertory Anthem

Carol of the Baptism

George Brandon

For text, see page 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.



THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

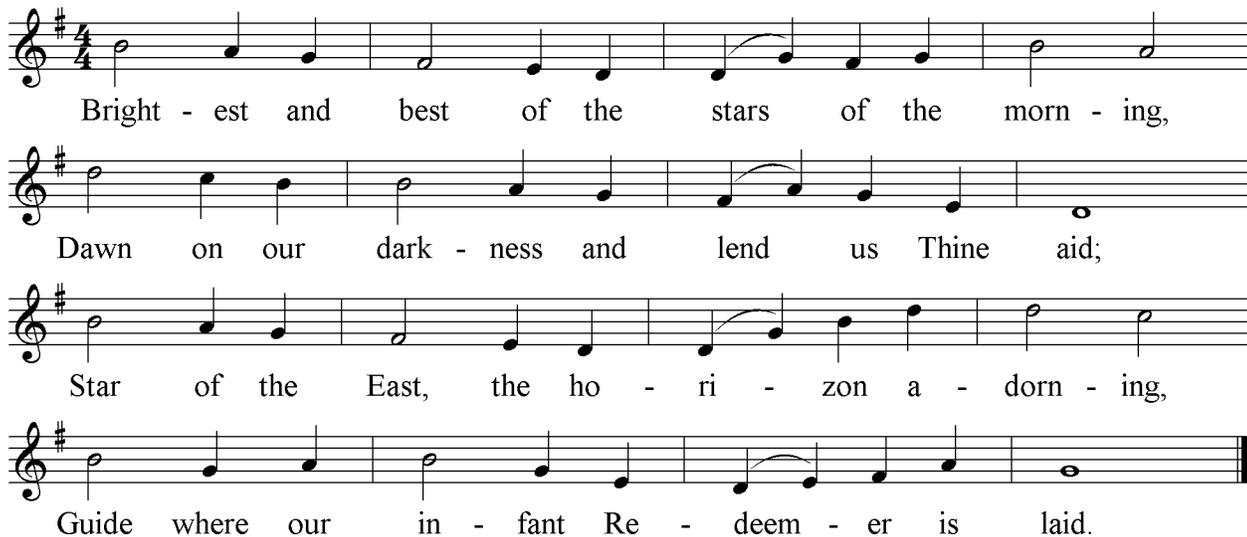
As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God's generous goodness.

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

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

Offertory

Brightest and Best of the Stars

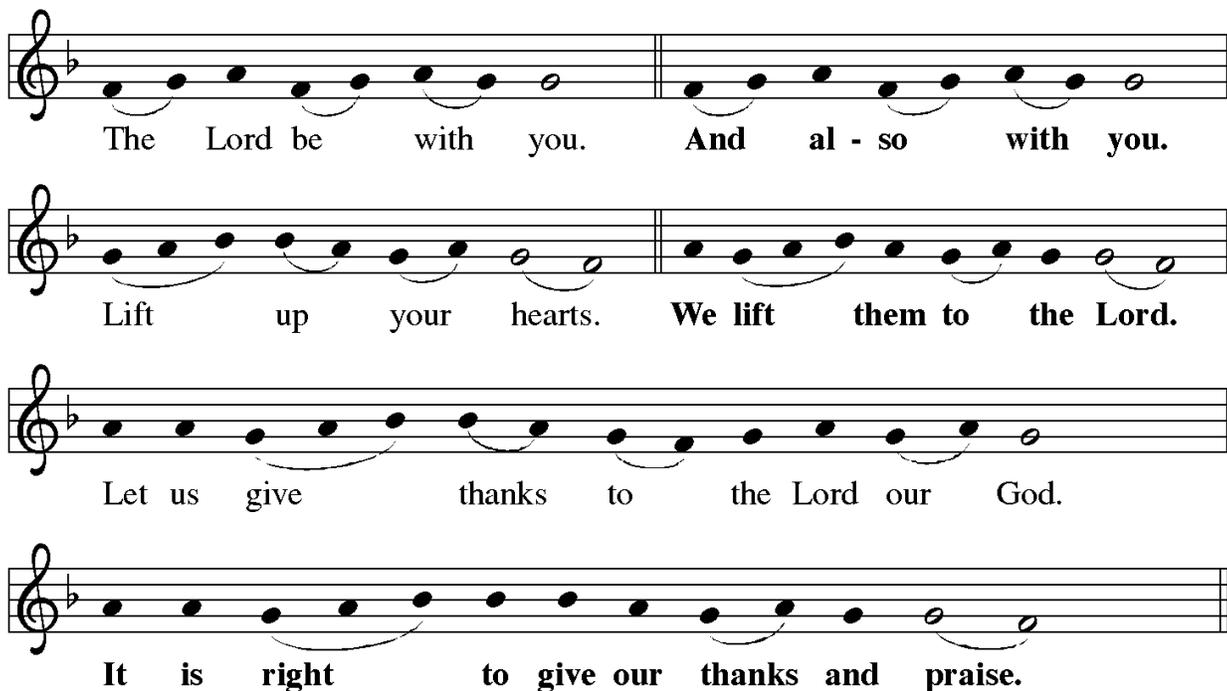


Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us Thine aid;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of majesty,
C **no eye has seen, no ear has heard**
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

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

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.

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.

The Proper Preface

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

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

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen

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

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.

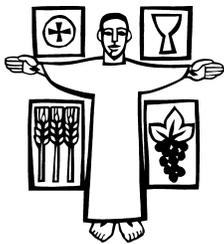
Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.

The Nunc dimittis (lit. "Now let depart") is the Song of Simeon, found in Luke 2:29-32. During the Sundays after Epiphany, we sing this after our encounter with the Light of the world in the bread and wine of communion.

**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

Nunc dimittis

O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Radiant God,

**C we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

Blessing

P The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen

Hymn 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

*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

P Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich

Wilhelm Friedrich Markull

Carol of the Baptism

“I come,” the great Redeemer cries,
“To do thy will, O Lord!”
At Jordan’s flood, behold! he seals
The sure prophetic word.

“Thus it becomes us to fulfill
All righteousness,” he said,
Then, faithful to the Lord’s commands,
Through Jordan’s stream was led.

Hark, a glad voice! The Father speaks
From heaven’s exalted height:
“This is my Son, my well-beloved,
In whom I do delight.”

Jesus, the Savior well-beloved!
His name we will profess,
Like him, desirous to fulfill
God’s will in righteousness.

No more we’ll count ourselves our own
But his in bonds of love.
Oh, may such bonds forever draw
Our souls to things above.

- Anonymous text from *The Christian Hymn Book* 1865

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, January 11 Baptism of Our Lord	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, January 12	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, January 13		
Wednesday, January 14	6:30PM	Choir rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, January 15		
Friday, January 16	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, January 17	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, January 18	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter	Laura Bolton	Sandy Anders & Lois Ashby
Lector	Nan Keenan	Franci Sifers
Communion Assistant		
Coffee Hour	(on 3rd Floor today!)	

Attendance Last Sunday

Offering Received (Pledges/Loose) \$2955.00

Budget (Pledges/Loose) \$3173.00



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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