

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone: (860) 633-1188

Email: churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
February 1, 2026

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

Please turn all cell phones off or on vibrate before the worship service begins.

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Voluntary in A

William Selby
(1738 – 1798)

***We gather in the name of the Father and the \pm Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

*CONFESSON

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

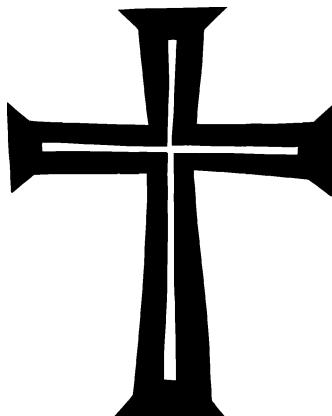
Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \pm Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.



*GATHERING HYMN

Gather us in

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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*GREETING

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

MICAH 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

A reading from Micah:

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

15

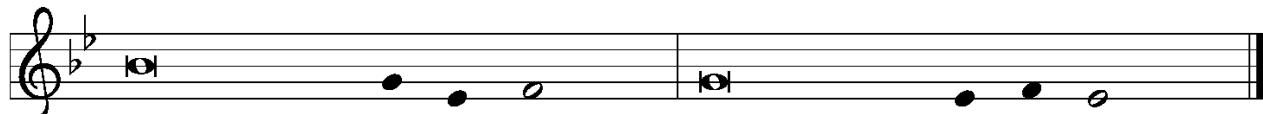
The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

Refrain



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

Tone



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart; R**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

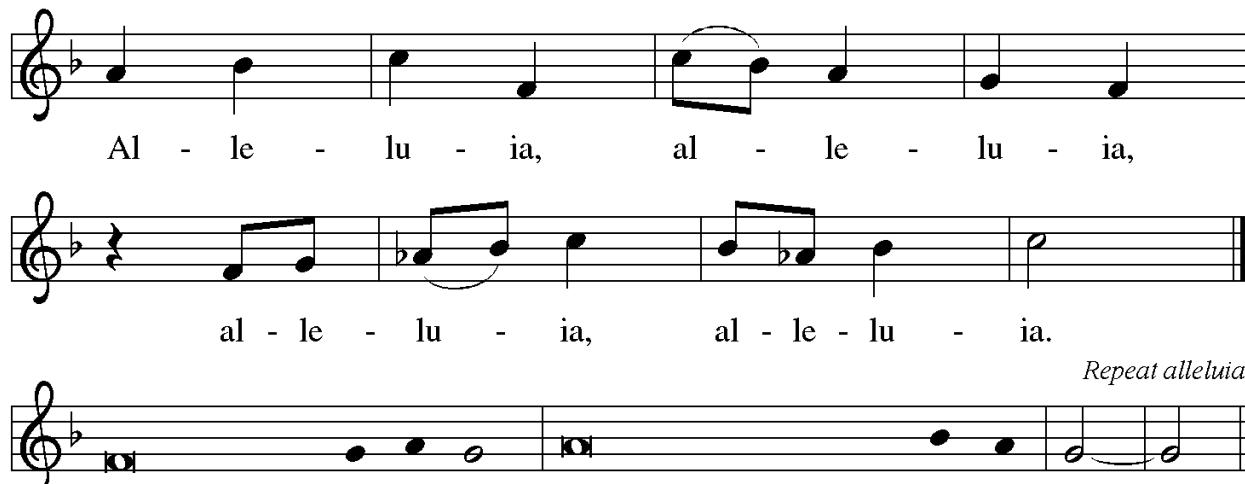
A reading from 1 Corinthians:

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing refrain. Choir will sing verse. All repeat refrain.



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

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

Repeat alleluia

Rejoice ¹ and be glad,
for your reward is ¹ great in heaven.

*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Build a longer table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel-come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David BJORLIN, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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*APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe.

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

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "hear our prayer." and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "Thanks be to God"

The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "Amen."

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

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

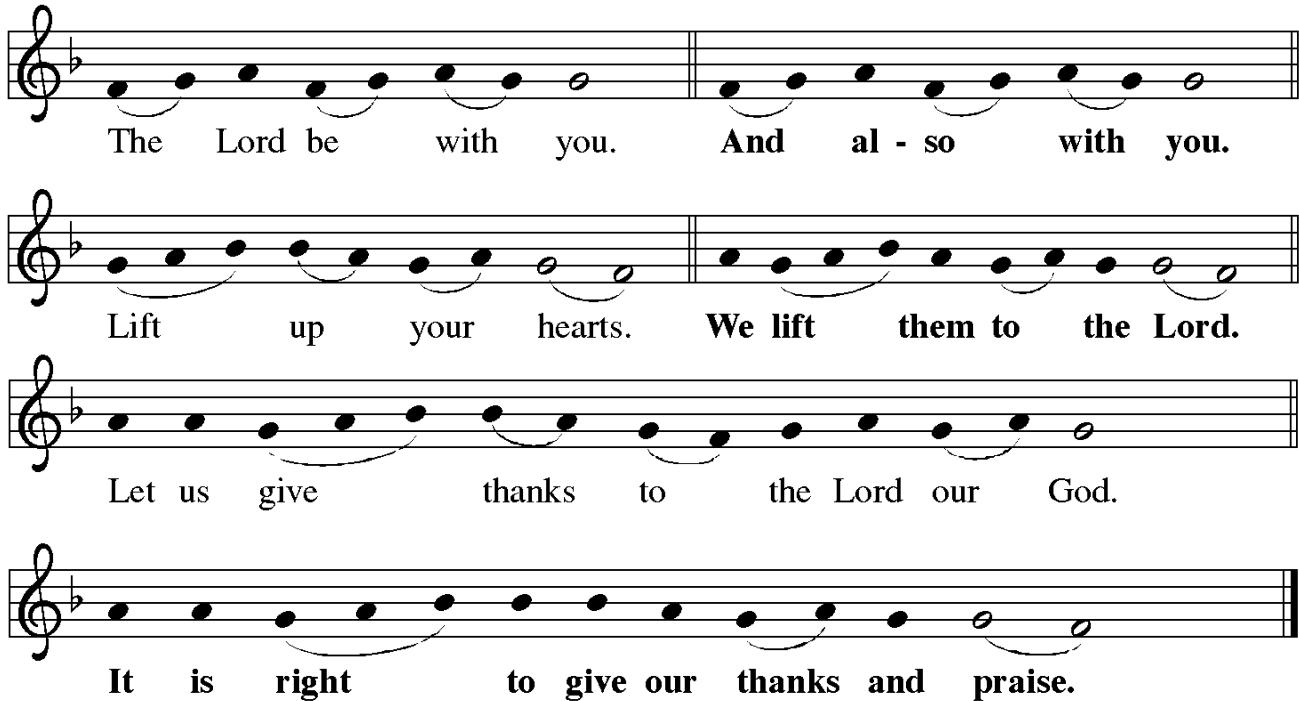
The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING ANTHEM *I want to walk as a child of the light* arr. Richard Proulx
(Text and tune may be found at ELW 815)

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty, 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.

*PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

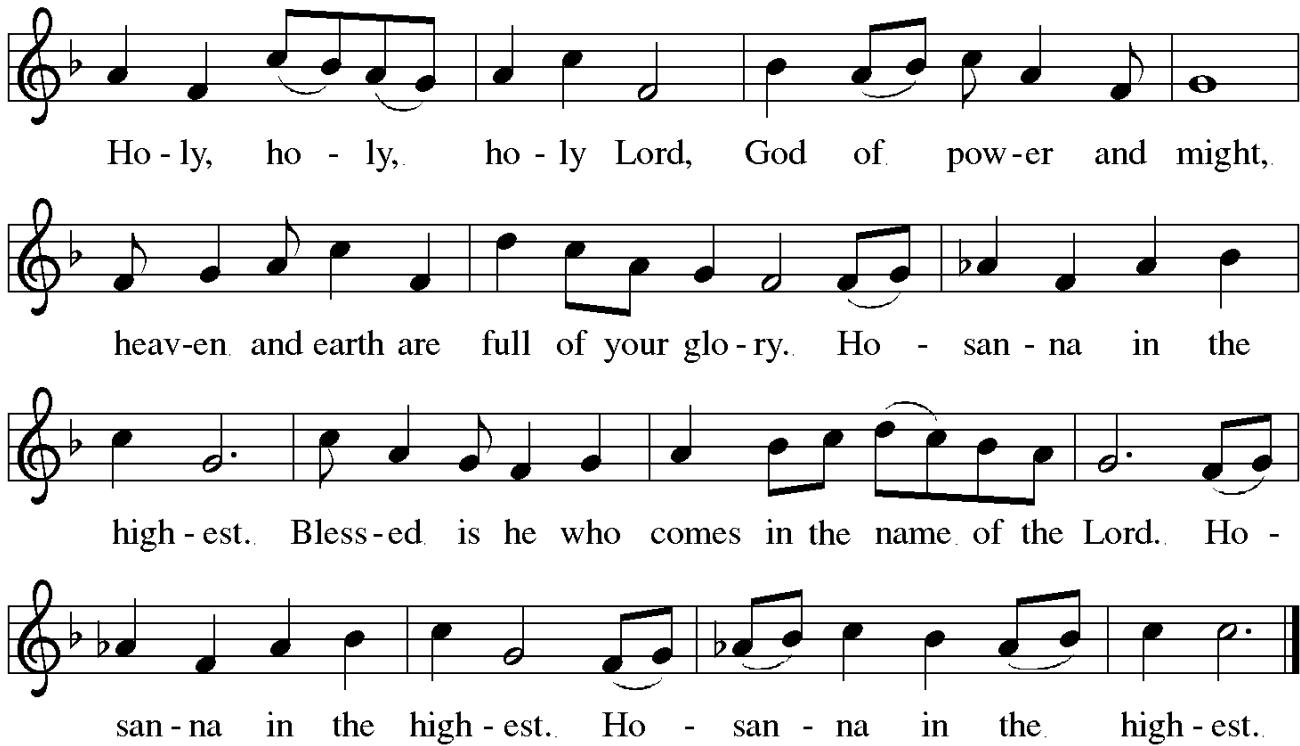
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCARISTIC PRAYER

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

With boldness and confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

*COMMUNION INVITATION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Christ, be our light

ELW 715

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God, 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
 + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

The Spirit sends us forth to serve

ELW 551

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the music, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 The Spir - it sends - us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to share the poor, God's fa - vor to blind pro - claim.
cher - ish dream and help do the in Je sus'
pow - ered life, to go lov - ing see.
us; we

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lift every voice and sing

(text and tune can be found at ELW 841)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us after worship today for a Congregation Meeting.**
- **We are in need of items for the School Backpack Program!** Each month, we need 64 of each of the following: Individual Oatmeal, Granola or Cereal Bars (no nuts), Individual Boxes of Cereal, Single Serving Soups, Individual Microwavable Mac & Cheese Cups, and Individual Fruit Cups. Please, no cans. It makes the backpacks too heavy for the children. Many thanks for your help and generosity!
- **Carol's Closet is in need of donated items.** Please see the list on the bulletin board and place donations in the coat room.
- **Please join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 6:00pm.**
- **Join us for weekday prayer offices via Zoom:** Matins on Tuesdays at 9:00am, Vespers on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Please use the usual Zoom link, which can be found on our website: www.saintmarkglastonbury.org

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, February 1	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Congregation Budget Meeting & Coffee Hour sponsored by Dottie's Team
	6:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, February 3	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
	4:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
	5:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 4	7:00pm	Vespers via Zoom
Thursday, February 5	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 8	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament led by Rev. Mark Lingle followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Godfellas



www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>
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