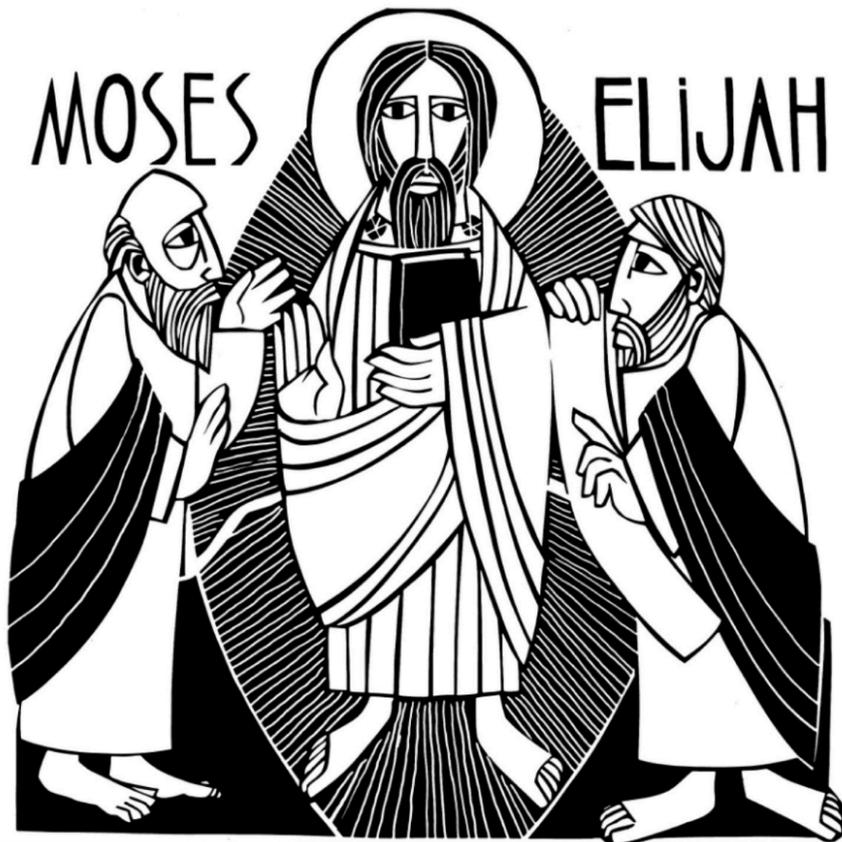


# Last Sunday after the Epiphany

## The Transfiguration



February 15, 2026

9:30 a.m.

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

# Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

We love that you have decided to spend some of your Sunday morning with us.

Help us get to know you better. Name tags are available. We'd like to make one for you if you'd like us to.

Help yourself to coffee in our "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

Children are invited to make themselves at home at our children's table. There are new activity bulletins every week 😊

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:30 am.

The YouTube link is available on our website, [stmarksandstjohns.org](https://stmarksandstjohns.org). **Subscribe** and **Like** our channel.

We appreciate your financial generosity to support our mission and ministry. We do not pass an offering plate during service, but you can find one at the entrance of the church or we welcome contributions online at [stmarksandstjohns.org/give](https://stmarksandstjohns.org/give).

# Prelude

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*Please stand*

**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

## "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

1982 Hymnal, 618

*Unison*

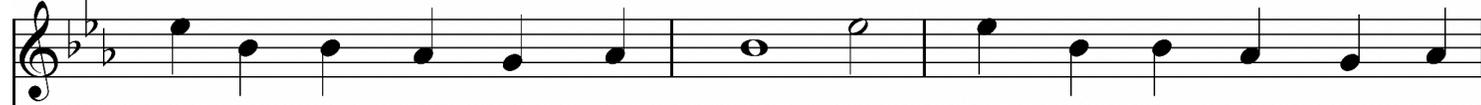


1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -  
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the

*Harmony* *Unison*

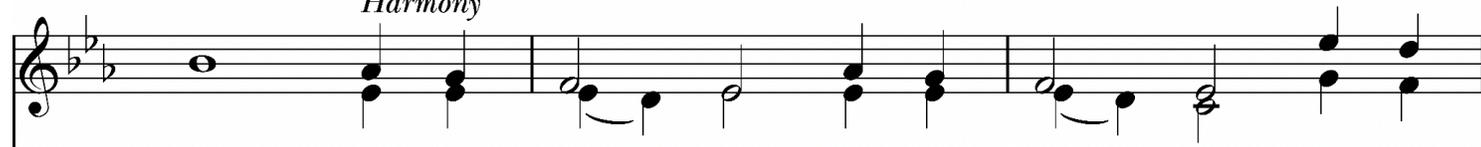


bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry  
ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'  
bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the

*Harmony*



choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

*Unison*



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Exodus 24:12-18

*A reading from the Book of Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter*

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron

and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 99

The Lord reigns;  
let the people tremble;  
the Lord is enthroned upon the Cherubim;  
let the earth shake.

**The Lord is great in Zion  
and is high above all peoples.**

Let them confess your name, which is great and awesome;  
you are the Holy One.

**“O mighty Sovereign, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”**

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and fall down before the footstool of God;  
the Lord is the Holy One.

**Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon your name,  
they called upon you, O Lord,  
and you answered them.**

You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies and the decree that  
you gave them.

**“O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.”**

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship upon the holy hill of God;  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

## SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 1: 16-21

*A reading from the second letter of Peter, the first chapter*

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

# SEQUENCE HYMN

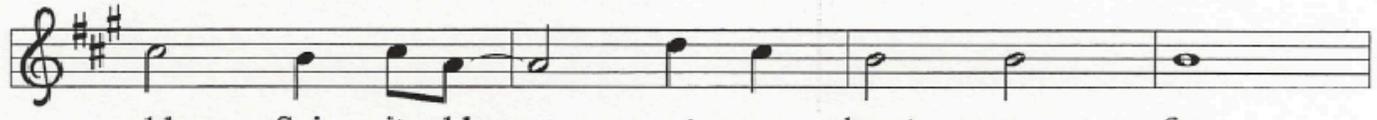
# "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

## Verse 1 + Refrain

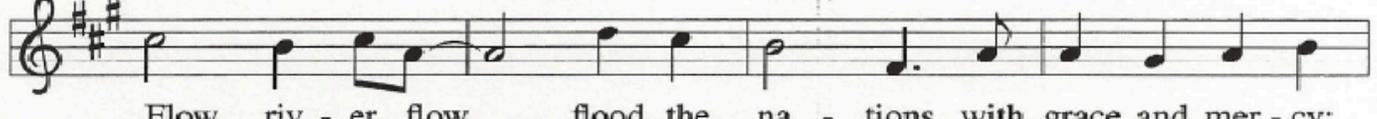
*Refrain*



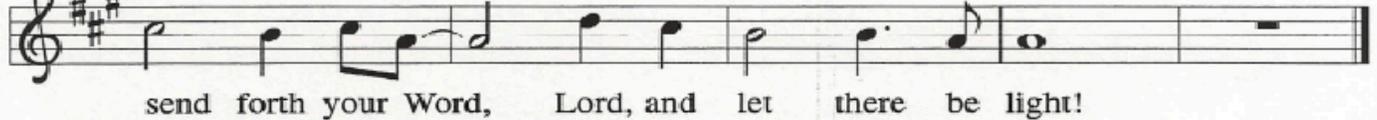
Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

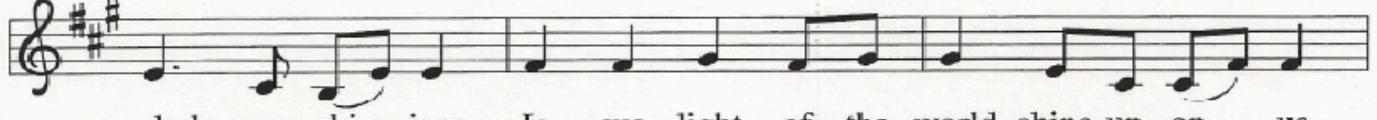


Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

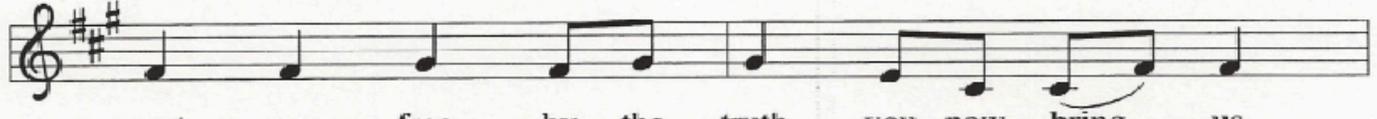


send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

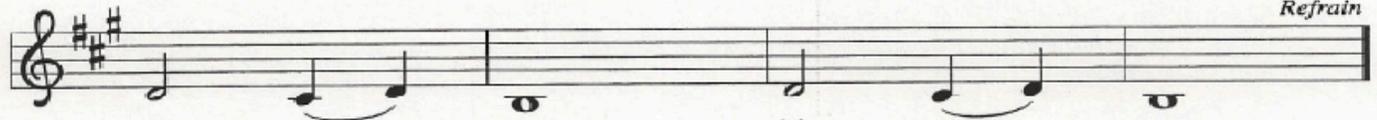


dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*



Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

# SEQUENCE HYMN

# "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

## Verse 2 + Refrain

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;  
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;  
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -  
dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

## PRAYER INTENTIONS AND MEDITATION

*Please be seated*

*As we celebrate the transfiguration of our Lord, we invite you to share prayer intentions that are close to your heart. Write your intentions on the prayer boards, light a candle for healing, and let its glow join the prayers of this community as you place it in the sand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: On this holy mountain, we behold the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. Let us lift our hearts in prayer, seeking the light that transforms the world, saying: Lord, let your glory shine.

For the Church throughout the world, that we may not be content to stay within our booths of comfort, but may descend the mountain to serve the suffering. We pray for Kara, our Bishop, and for all who lead your people.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

For the leaders of the nations, that the blinding light of Christ's peace might penetrate the darkness of conflict, greed, and oppression. May they seek justice and uphold the dignity of every human being.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

For this fragile earth, our island home. In the dazzling whiteness of the Transfiguration, remind us of the sanctity of all creation, and grant us the will to protect and restore the beauty of your handiwork.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

For those whose lives are shadowed by grief, sickness, or despair. We pray especially for *[Names are read]*. May the warmth of your presence bring them healing and hope, turning their mourning into joy.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

For this community, that our faces might reflect the love of Christ. Help us to listen to the Beloved Son, that we may be agents of transformation in our neighborhoods and homes.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

For those who have died, that they may behold your face in the light that never fades. We remember especially *[Names]*. May they rest in the glory of your eternal kingdom.

**Lord, let your glory shine.**

Celebrant: Holy God, you revealed the glory of your Son to the chosen witnesses on the mountain: Grant that we, who have not seen, may yet believe. Transform us by your Spirit, that we may be your light in a world longing for your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of God's peace to one another.

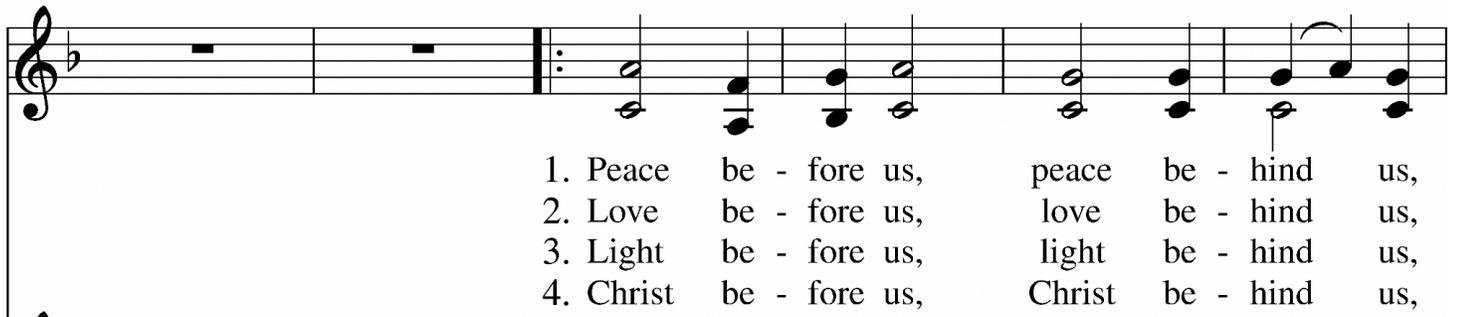
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY

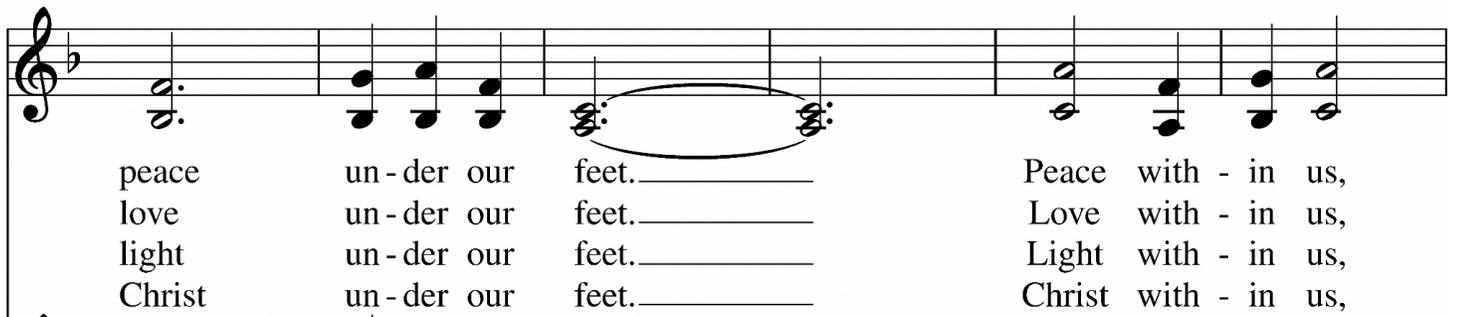
“Peace Before Us”

WLP 791

*Eucharistic Ministers gather and process with Communion elements and Offering.*



1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,  
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us,  
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us,  
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us,



peace un - der our feet. \_\_\_\_\_ Peace with - in us,  
love un - der our feet. \_\_\_\_\_ Love with - in us,  
light un - der our feet. \_\_\_\_\_ Light with - in us,  
Christ un - der our feet. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ with - in us,



1. 2. 3. 4. 5.  
peace o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
love o - ver us, let all a - round us be love. \_\_\_\_\_  
light o - ver us, let all a - round us be light. \_\_\_\_\_  
Christ o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ. \_\_\_\_\_



6.

6. peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Let all a - round us be peace. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Let all a - round us be peace. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

6. Peace before us, peace behind us,  
peace under our feet.  
Peace within us, peace over us,  
let all around us be peace. *(three times)*

## HOLY EUCHARIST

God is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right to glorify you and to give you thanks, our holy and living God; you dwell in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Now we praise you

with the faithful of every time and place, and give voice to every creature, as we sing this eternal hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly  
ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -  
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name  
of the Lord, of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high -  
est, ho - san - na in the high - est

You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might become stewards of all creation.

Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets, you taught us to hope for salvation.

You loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only begotten one to be our Savior. Incarnated by the Holy Spirit, born of your servant Mary, Jesus lived as one of us. To the poor Christ proclaimed the good news of salvation; to refugees, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

The night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.**

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

**This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you;  
do this as often as you drink it to remember me.**

From the gifts, you have given us we offer you this bread and this cup, and proclaim the mystery of our faith,

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

Therefore, loving God, recalling Christ's life, death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with

your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.**

***All are invited to come to the table.***

*Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing just let us know.*

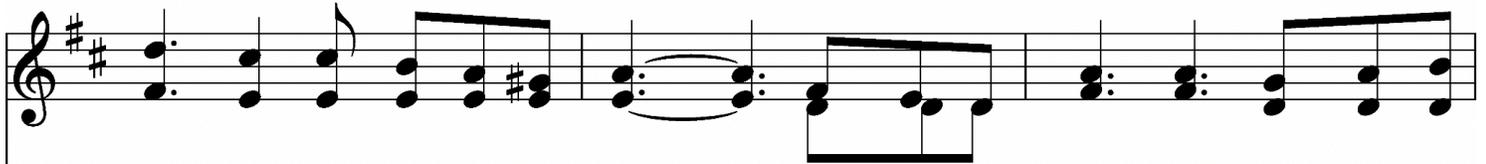
COMMUNION MUSIC

"Blessed Assurance"

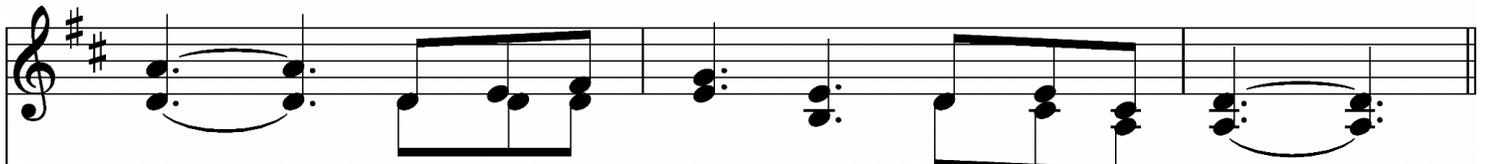
LEVAS, 184



1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! — O what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, — Vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, — I in my



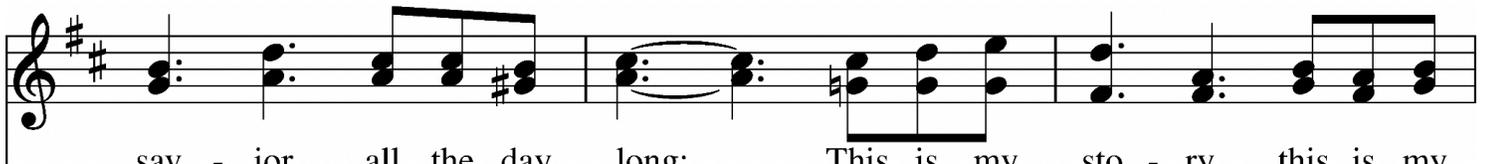
1. fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! — Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; — An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; — Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



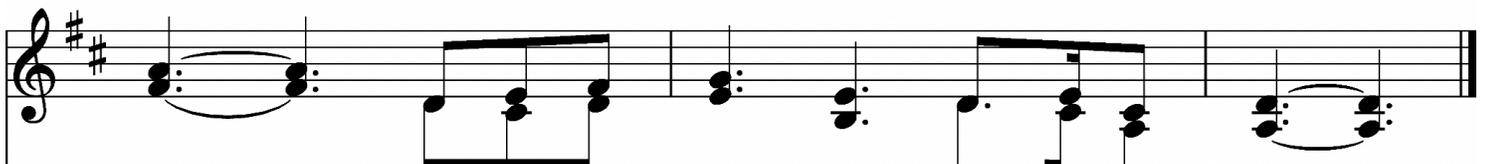
1. God, — Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. —  
 2. bove — Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. —  
 3. bove, — Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. —



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, — Prais - ing my



sav - ior all the day long; — This is my sto - ry, this is my



song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long. —

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## "THE BLESSING" (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by  
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace.  
Amen, amen, amen; Amen, amen, amen. (2x)

May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations  
And your family and your children and their children,  
and their children. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen; Amen, amen, amen.

## FINAL BLESSING

May the God who spoke from the cloud and revealed the glory of the Beloved Son, fill you with the light of Christ. May you go down from this mountain with hearts transformed, to see the face of God in every neighbor and the light of Christ in every dark place. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Redeemer, and Sustainer be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have announcements that you would like to have in next week's bulletin please email Pastor Cindy by 5PM on Tuesday evening. [crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org](mailto:crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org)

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

## "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

1982 Hymnal, 460



1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the  
\*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we



1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the  
2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is



1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the  
2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the



1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a  
2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty



1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery  
2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his



1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"

## DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## FARWELL TO THE ALLELUIA

God of Light, we have stood upon the mountain and seen your glory. As we descend now into the valley of Lent, we prepare to silence our songs of joy.

**The Alleluia is our song of the heavenly Jerusalem; We lay it down as we journey into the shadow of the cross.**

Like a seed planted in the earth, we bury this word in our hearts. May it rest in the quiet of our fast, and may it rise again in the fire of the Paschal night.

**Farewell, Alleluia. You are our song in the night. We will wait for your return at the Empty Tomb.**

## Worship Leader Schedule

### Lectors

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson &amp; Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Greeter &amp; Prayers of the People</b>
2/15	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Sharon K.
2/22	Nancy R.	Nancy W.	Bonnie H.
3/1	Sharon K.	Michele H.	Helena W.
3/8	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.

### Eucharistic Ministers

<b>Date</b>	<b>Common Cup</b>	<b>Single Cup Tray</b>	<b>Collect Cups</b>
2/15	Terri C.	Sharon K.	Bob C.
2/22	Dave E.	Mary Ellen F.	Bonnie H.
3/1	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Dave E.
3/8	Mary Ellen F.	Michele H.	Deb S.

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Michael K. - February 3 Connor C. - February 8 Bonnie H. - February 12 Deb S. - February 13 Linda S. - February 13	Email us at <a href="mailto:admin@stmarksandstjohns.org">admin@stmarksandstjohns.org</a> for Birthday and/or Anniversaries :-)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Food Shelf** - If you can lend a hand on Wednesday mornings - sign up online at [stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer](http://stmarksandstjohns.org/volunteer).

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - February 17th beginning at 6pm. Please sign-up to let us know how many will be in your group. See Heather G. or Bonnie H. for more information.

**Ash Wednesday Services** - February 18th - Noonday Prayer (12:10 pm) and Eucharist (5:30 pm) with Imposition of Ashes.

**Online Lenten Morning Prayer** - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am throughout Lent. The first service will be held on February 24th and the link for the service will be on the website.

[stmarksandstjohns.org](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)

# SMSJ Weekly Calendar

February 9 - February 15

Monday, 2/16	Office Closed
Tuesday, 2/17 Shrove Tuesday	6:00 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ( <i>Sanctuary</i> ) 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Wednesday, 2/18 Ash Wednesday	12:10 pm - Prayer Service w/ Imposition of Ashes 5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist w/ Imposition of Ashes 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Thursday, 2/19	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Friday, 2/20	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Story Tellers
Saturday, 2/21	9:30-Noon - Vestry Retreat ( <i>Sanctuary</i> )
Sunday, 2/22 First Sunday in Lent	9:30 am - <b>Worship with Eucharist</b> (Pastor Cindy & Pastor Maria) 10:45 am - Vestry Business Meeting ( <i>Board Room</i> )

## Mark your calendar

February	March	April
<b>17 - Shrove Tuesday</b> Pancake Supper (6 pm)	<b>Morning Prayer</b> (9 am, Tues & Thurs. during Lent)	<b>2 - Maundy Thursday</b> (6 pm)
<b>18 - Ash Wednesday</b> Noonday Prayer (12:10 pm) Eucharist (5:30 pm)	<b>29 - Palm Sunday</b> Worship with Eucharist (9:30 am)	<b>3 - Good Friday</b> (12:10 pm) <b>4 - Holy Saturday</b> (10 am)
<b>24 &amp; 26 -Morning Prayer</b> (9 am, Tues & Thurs. during Lent - online)		<b>5 - Easter Sunday</b> Pancake Breakfast (8:30 am) New Fire & Worship (9:45 am)

## Episcopal Church

### Division of Public Policy, Partnership, and Witness

**Casa Maria** is a local organization in Minneapolis, Minnesota that is providing food and supplies to Minnesotans on the ground, where a beautiful network of neighbors caring for one another is in full swing. Please donate what you can here to sustain their support for one another.

 Donate here: <https://givebutter.com/casa-maria>

**Oppose Mass Deportations:** Urging lawmakers to block funding for large-scale deportation operations and to protect the due process rights of undocumented neighbors.

**Support the Dignity Act of 2025:** Advocating for this bipartisan bill which aims to provide a pathway to legal status while addressing border security.

**Protect "Sensitive Locations":** Calling for legislation to prevent immigration enforcement actions (raids) at churches, schools, and hospitals.

**Reinstate Refugee Admissions:** Advocating for the full restoration of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

**Rural & Migrant Ministry:** RMM's mission is put into action through five main program areas: Accompaniment (Standing With Others), Rural Academy of the People (Nurturing Leadership), Youth Empowerment, Immigrant Legal Rights Project, and Common Good Federal Credit Union (Financial Equity).

<https://ruralmigrantministry.org/>

## **This Week in Church History - Ash Wednesday**

The history of Ash Wednesday is a fascinating evolution of communal penance and physical symbolism that spans over a millennium. While the early Church (prior to the 4th century) practiced varying lengths of preparation for Easter, the specific 40-day fast of Lent—modeled after Jesus' time in the wilderness—didn't solidify until after the Council of Nicaea. Originally, the imposition of ashes was a public rite reserved for "notorious sinners" who were required to perform public penance before being reconciled to the community on Maundy Thursday. By the 11th century, the practice had shifted from a discipline for a few to a universal rite for all believers, reflecting the theological understanding that everyone stands in need of repentance.

The ashes are found throughout scripture, representing both our mortality and our contrition. Historically, they are created by burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday, effectively "closing the circle" of the liturgical year. In the Anglican tradition, the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer* initially moved away from the physical imposition of ashes in favor of a "Commination Service"—a series of warnings against sin. However, the physical ritual was eventually restored and popularized within Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church during the liturgical renewals of the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, the service is defined by the "Liturgy of the Day," which includes the hauntingly beautiful exhortation: "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*"

## **DID YOU KNOW... Ash Wednesday around the World**

In the global Anglican Communion, celebrations of Ash Wednesday reflect a blend of solemn uniformity and local cultural adaptation:

- **North America and the UK:** In many urban centers, the "Ashes to Go" movement has gained popularity. Clergy stand at train stations or street corners to offer ashes and prayer to commuters, bringing the sanctuary's solemnity into the frantic pace of modern life.
- **The Global South (Africa and Southeast Asia):** In countries like Kenya or Nigeria, Ash Wednesday services are often packed, multi-generational events. The emphasis is frequently on communal fasting and "tithing" the saved food or money to the poor, literalizing the Lenten call to almsgiving.
- **The Caribbean and Latin America:** In Anglican provinces here, the service often marks a sharp, somber pivot from the vibrant "Carnival" celebrations of the preceding days. The contrast between the colorful street festivals and the stark grey of the ashes serves as a powerful reminder of the transition from worldly joy to spiritual discipline.

Regardless of the geography, the heart of the Anglican celebration remains the "Invitation to a Holy Lent." It is a day where the hierarchy of the church is leveled; from the Bishop to the youngest child, everyone receives the same smudge of carbon on their forehead, marking them as equal in their humanity and their hope for resurrection.



# St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D., **Rector**  
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The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg, **Associate Priest**  
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## **AV Producer**

Rob Thornton

## **Musician**

Amelia Yousey

## **Deacon Emeritus**

The Rev'd Mike Finn

## **St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry**

### **Members**

#### **Co-Wardens**

Nancy Ramsay ('27)  
Sharon Kowalski ('28)

Bob Caruso (Clerk)

Terri Censak ('29)

Dave Everson ('28)

Heather Gilfoy ('27)

Michele Holmes ('28)

Deb Snyder ('29)

Nancy Willer ('27)

#### **Diocesan Delegates**

Bonnie Hallman-Dye  
( '28)

Nancy Ramsay ('26)

Ella Webster ('26)

#### **Treasurer**

Michele Holmes

## **Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative**

Terri Censak