



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

January 19, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly  
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
256.539.4361 | [stmarkshsv.org](http://stmarkshsv.org) | [@stmarkshsv](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshsv)

# *In Worship Today...*

## *Narrative Lectionary: Sermon at Nazareth*

Prelude: Prelude in E flat - Alexandre Guilmant

Welcome | Gathering Hymn: **Hark, the Glad Sound** ELW 239

Confession and Forgiveness | **Joyous Light of Glory** ELW 230 | Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Psalm 146 *Pew Bible p.507*

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia** ELW p.171 | Luke 4:14-30 *Pew Bible p.835*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness** ELW 843

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Because He Lives (Amen)**

Communion Liturgy with **Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

Distribution: **His Mercy is More | Here All Will Be Fed**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **The Blessing**

Dismissal | Postlude: Fanfare for a Princess arr. Rawsthorne

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Joan Bloomberg | Lector: Bonnie Mueller | Acolyte: Annika Williams

Ushers: Margie & Todd Phillips | Tech Volunteer: Payton Sieja

Communion Assistants: Annika Williams & Doug Bloomberg

Coffee Host: Andy Sieja

## *St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion*

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

## *We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!*

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

## *Revealing God in the Worship Space: Paraments*

You may have noticed that the paraments changed from white to green today. From the Latin word "paramentum," which means "to adorn," the paraments are the cloth hangings on the lectern, the pulpit and the communion table. The colors change according to the season of the church year, representing major themes of the season. During Christmas, Easter, and certain festival days, the color is white, symbolizing holiness. During Advent, the color is blue, representing hope and expectation. In Lent, the color is purple, representing both royalty and repentance. For Pentecost and Reformation, the paraments are red, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. And in the Sundays after both Epiphany and Pentecost, the color is green, a symbol of growth in faith and life. The paraments are also adorned with symbols, such as the Alpha and Omega, which reminds us that God is both the beginning and the end of our lives. Through both color and symbolism, the paraments are a visual reminder of the Christian story throughout the year.

## *Altar Flowers*

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given to the Glory of God by the Foreman Family.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, January 5, 2025*

### Attendance

In Person Worship: 119 | Online Views: 74

Child & Youth Sunday School: 26 | Adult Sunday School: 16

### General Offerings Last Week

Last Week: \$16,048.55 | YTD: \$22,714 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

*For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:*



## *Ready to Get Online?*

Wi-Fi is available using the SMLC Guest network with password: GrowingTogether

## *This Week We are Praying for...*

Those working for justice, equity, and dignity for all peoples as we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Peaceful political transitions in the United States and around the world especially on Inauguration Day | St. Mark's Faith & Fiction Book Club as they gather together for discussions and fellowship | Victims, evacuees, and firefighters facing wildfires in California | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Joan, Ciera, Polly, Vicki, Carrie, Jeannette, Suzy, Frank, Mija, Ed, and Kim

*A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday; if you would like to receive this email, please contact [prayer@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:prayer@stmarkshsv.org) Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.*

## *Office Closed*

In observance of MLK Day, the office will be closed on Monday, January 20.

## *Lucy and Ethel's Chocolate Factory– WELCA Gathering*

The first WELCA meeting of the new year will be Saturday, January 25 from 2 - 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Participants will make chocolate truffles in assembly-line fashion, which can be taken home to share with others. There will also be a chocolate fountain and goodies for dipping during the business meeting in addition to a game of "Lucy and Ethel Bingo" while the chocolates set. Look for sign ups in the Narthex; no tickets will be sold, but a free will offering of \$10 would be appreciated.

## *Altar Flowers*

Sign up for altar flowers in Communication Central! Plenty of 2025 dates are still available! \$30 per arrangement will decorate the altar. And bonus! You can celebrate a loved one and have flowers for your table! Payments can be made via check placed in the offering plate (memo: altar flowers) or St. Mark's online giving page.

## *Save the Date! February 8th Family Fun Night*

Join us Saturday, February 8 at 5:30pm for an evening of dinner and games for everyone!

## *What's Next? - Sign Up in Communication Central*

Check out the sign up board for info on upcoming events. Something new and exciting is always on the horizon! Supper Club, Faith & Fiction, WELCA, Free Spirits, and more!

# SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

*United in Christ*



## **AFFIRM**

**June 15 - 20**  
**LaGrange, GA**

Summer Youth Event hosted by the SE Synod; for 6th grade - college sophomores

## **DAY CAMPS**

**June 23 - 27 AND July 14 - 18**

We are offering TWO different summer day camps at St. Mark's this year for kids, ages 4-11. Each week is filled with crafts, service projects, Bible stories, games, silly songs - and so much more!

**Registration opens Feb. 1!**

## *St. Mark's Staff*

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | [pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org)

Traci Billman, Director of Christian Education | [traci@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:traci@stmarkshsv.org)

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