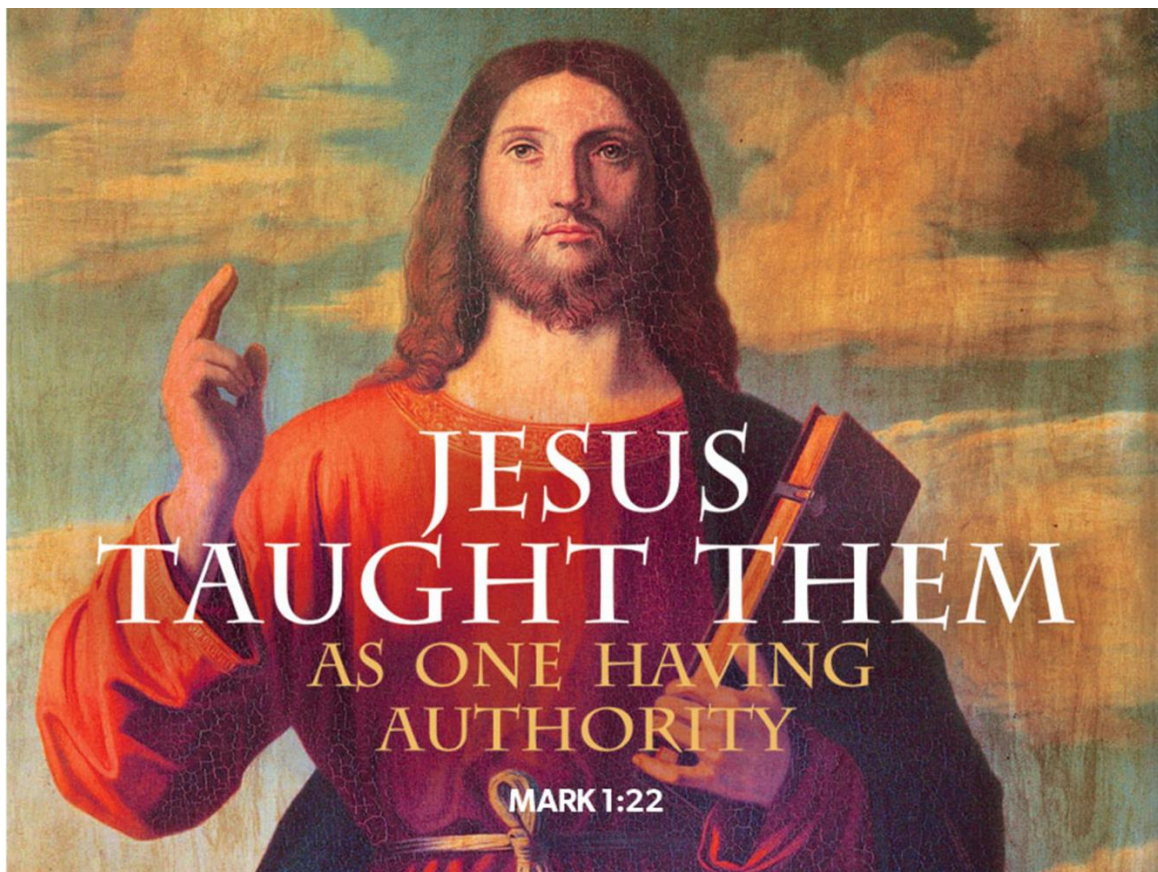


4th Sunday after Epiphany

Praise Service



January 28, 2024 ~ 10:00 am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor

301-733-7550 www.stmarkslc.org

+ Stand if you are able.

The Praise Team invites everyone to sing along

PRELUDE - "Jesus Hope of the Nations"

Verse

Jesus hope of the nations
Jesus comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of heaven's hope on
earth
Jesus light in the darkness
Jesus truth in each circumstance
You are the source of heaven's light on
earth

Pre-Chorus

In history You lived and died
You broke the chains You rose to life

Chorus

You are the hope living in us
You are the Rock in whom we trust
You are the light shining for all the
world to see
You rose from the dead conquering fear
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near
Jesus our hope living for all who will
receive
(Lord we believe)

(Repeat Verse, Pre-chorus, and Chorus)

Tag

Lord we believe
Lord we believe
Lord we believe

Pre-chorus

Chorus

Ending

Lord we believe
Lord we believe
Lord we believe
Lord we believe
Lord we believe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PSALM 111

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

+ PRAISE SONG - "Let It Rise"

Verse 1 (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the praises of the King
Rise among us
Let it rise

Verse 2 (ALL)

Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord
Rise among us
Let the joy of the King
Rise among us let it rise

Chorus

O let it rise
O let it rise

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us praise the Lord!

We praise God with our whole heart!

God's works are great!

Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!

Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

May our lives reflect the wondrous love of God that all may see and know of God's greatness.

+ PRAISE SONG (Reprise) - "Let It Rise"

Verse 1 (ALL)

Let the glory of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the glory of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the praises of the King

Rise among us

Let it rise

Verse 2 (ALL)

Let the songs of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the songs of the Lord

Rise among us

Let the joy of the King

Rise among us let it rise

Chorus

O let it rise

O let it rise

+ OPENING PRAYER

Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

READING - Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

READING - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

OFFERING

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,

you are never far from us, you are as close as our breathing. We recognize you as the one who heals the wounded spirit and gives new life to the broken hearted. We offer these gifts to you, O God, as a sign of our commitment to Your grace and authority. Take us and use us and all that we have, so that the Kingdom of Heaven will be realized on earth; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

+ GOSPEL READING - Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian

+ PRAISE HYMN - "Let the Whole Creation Cry"

ELW 876

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.

- Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
- 3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

We do.

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support these children and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

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?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the flood waters, you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea, you led your people, Israel, from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness, you nourished them with water from the rock and brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Vivian Michelle, Ruby Christine, and Sophia Kathryn Rose will be baptized

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain name with 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.

Amen.

Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

+ WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

+ PRAISE HYMN - "Baptized and Set Free"

ELW 453

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

2 We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.

3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

+ PRAISE SONG - "My God is All I Need/ My God is So Big"

Verse 1 (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

Dark, dark is the valley
Faint the light at my feet
But whatever may face me
My God is all I need

Verse 2 (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

Bright bright are the treasures
Life may offer to me
But whatever the pleasure
My God is all I need

Chorus (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

He is my strength when I cannot go on
Peace when all my power is gone
Hope although the night is long and
deep

He is my song for He has rescued me
Joy now He has set me free
Praise praise to my Father be
My God is all I need

Verse 3 (ALL)

Brief brief are my days here
Soon my journey complete
But I look to my Saviour
Where God has met my need
Yes He has met my need

+ BLESSING

Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope, speaking and acting with authority. Listen to him. Go into this world, confident in God's love and healing power. Go in peace and may God's love and peace always be with you!

Chorus (ALL)

Bridge (ALL)

My God is so big so strong and so
mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
My God is so big so strong and so
mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
The mountains are His the valleys are
His
The stars are His handiwork too
My God is so big so strong and so
mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

(Repeat Bridge) (ALL)

Tag

There's nothing my God cannot do

Chorus (ALL)

Tag

Praise praise to my Father be
My God is all I need

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