

# **Morning Prayer**

## **Rite I**



**St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Johnstown, PA**

**February 8, 2026**

**Hymn #497**

**How bright appears the morning star**

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.*

### **Confession of Sin**

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.*

*But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

*The Leader alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

All stand

Leader            O Lord, open thou our lips.  
People            *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

Leader and People

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

## **Antiphon**

**Venite**    *Psalm 95:1-7*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
    let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
    and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
    and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the corners of the earth, \*  
    and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it, \*  
    and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, \*  
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*

and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

### **Psalm 112:1-9**

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

## The Lessons

### The Old Testament: Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Shout out, do not hold back!

    Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
    to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
    and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
    and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
    they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

    Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
    and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
    and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
    will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
    a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
    and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
    a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
    to loose the bonds of injustice,  
    to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
    and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
    and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.]

## **The Word of the Lord**

*Thanks be to God*

## **Canticle 4: The Song of Zechariah**

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*

which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.  
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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

**Hymn # 419**

**Lord of all being, throned afar**

## **The Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

**Homily**

**Colleen Curry**

**The Apostles Creed**

Officiant and People together, all standing

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the*

*Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.*

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended  
into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the  
Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and  
come into his courts.

**Anthem**

**Organist and Choir**

**Doxology**

**The Prayers**

The people stand or kneel

Leader            The Lord be with you.  
People            *And with thy spirit.*

Leader            Let us pray.

Leader and People

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. *And grant us thy salvation.*  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
R. *And make thy chosen people joyful.*  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. *For only in thee can we live in safety.*  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
R. *Thy saving health among all nations.*  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants Jerry and Jane Strittmatter, Cindy Leap, Cynthia Frank, Carol Adams, Louise Mead, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Catherine McCloskey, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, that their weakness may be banished and their strength restored; and that their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servant, Stacy Moskal, and we pray that, having opened to her the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive her more and more into thy joyful service, that with all who have faithfully served thee in the

past, she may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Collect of the Day*

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God now and forever, *Amen.*

*A Collect for Sundays*

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of who standeth our eternal life whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Guidance*

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by the Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupation of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Prayer for the Nation (page 258)*

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## *Prayer for Social Justice (page 260)*

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*[I'll pray for those on our prayer list] Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings at this time.*

*Officiant:* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

### *Officiant and People*

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our*

*selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

*Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.*

*Let us bless the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

**Hymn LEVAS #194**

**Lead me, Guide me**

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power  
To help me over my weakest hour;  
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

3 I am lost, if you take your hand from me;  
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;  
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of god, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

**Remember Today In Your Prayers:**

Cynthia Frank, Jerry & Jane Strittmater, Carol Adams, Susan Kelly & Mike Teore, Catherine McCloskey, Maryann Marchl, Rick McKinley, David Wertz & Rebecca Church, Keith Hipp, and Ardean Kreasko.

**Continue to Remember In Your Personal Prayers:**

Donovan Pendell, Louise Mead. Cynthia Greig, Bill & Doris Horner, Dottie Venet, Bonnie Murray, Vince & Irene Joyce, Richard Burkert, Regina Hoover, Shawn & Tyler McKinley, Marlene Rhin, Lou Hoffer.

**Rest in Peace**

Please remember in your prayers, Stacey Moskal, the daughter of Jerry & Jane Strittmater, who passed away this past week.

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Her O Lord.*

**Chicken & Biscuit Dinner**

Don't forget, Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is our Chicken & Biscuit Dinner. Please check your Grapevine for items needed for the Dinner as well as a Sign p Sheet for Cakes and Help with the Dinner.

## ***Readers and Greeters February-March 2026***

If you are unable to read on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute or let Mother Nancy know so a sub can be found in a timely manner. Thank you.

### **Sunday Readers**

Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Zawiskie & Pam Hysong
Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Joann Lacko & Lisa Bell-Loncella
Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Donna Carosi & Colleen Curry
March 1**	Richard Burkert & Tina Grata
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Donovan Pendell & Pam Hysong
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Zawiskie & Colleen Curry
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lisa Bell-Loncella & Donna Carosi
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Burkert & Joann Lacko

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### **Sunday Greeters & Ushers**

Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sam & Heidi Buchan
Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane & Gerry Strittmatter
Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tina Grata & Joann Lacko
March 1 <sup>st</sup> **	Malissa Babalonis & Aiden
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sam & Heidi Buchan
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane & Jerry Strittmatter
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Amy & Penn Whitlow
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tina Grata & Colleen Curry

## **Sunday: The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany**

Sunday Feb. 8th 10:00 am Morning Prayer I

Saturday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> “Happy Valentine’s Day

## **Next Sunday: The Last Sunday After the Epiphany**

Sunday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II

Friday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Prep Work  
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Saturday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 11:00 am to 1:30 pm  
“Chicken & Biscuit”  
Take Out Dinner

## **The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany**

**08 February 2026**

### **DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Canonsburg,  
and the  
Rev. Deacon James Miorelli

### **Altar Flowers Given to The Greater Glory of God**

In loving Memory of  
Job Ireland  
Perpetual Flowers

In Loving Memory of  
the Marootian Family  
Perpetual Flowers

### **Next Week's Readings**

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through  
transformational worship and service*