



# MARK'S

## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*

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**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Today's "Service of Lessons and Carols" (see the "Music Notes" on page 18) is a St. Mark's tradition that reaches back into 19th century England with the singing of carols and the reading of lessons in preparation for the season of Christmas. During today's service, may you hear again the grace of the good news expressed through the richness of word and music. May we prepare the way of the Lord as we sing, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"! This is the season of joy and promise.*

## GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance.*

*The Offering will be brought forward by the ushers during the Offertory Anthem.*

***Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.***

### **Prelude**

"Coventry Carol"

Sixteenth Century English Carol

Setting for string quartet and organ by John Lloyd

*Please stand as able.*

### **Processional Hymn**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ELW 254

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*Please be seated.*

### **Welcome**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed by God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confess our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,  
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**  
**We have strayed from your paths.**  
**We prepare for war instead of peace.**  
**We dishonor one another and your creation.**  
**Purify us with your refining fire**  
**and set us again on your way of love,**  
**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**  
**and welcome your coming among us.**  
**Amen.**

People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch, a living sign.  
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on ✝ Christ,  
and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

### 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.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As the pastor lights the Advent wreath, verse one of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is sung.*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (ELW 257)

VENI, EMMANUEL

6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## WORD

**First Lesson:** *The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.*

**Isaiah 40:1-8**

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

**Anthem** "Comfort Ye, My People" from *Messiah*  
George Frideric Handel; Caleb Wilson, tenor soloist

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God,  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,  
and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd,  
that her iniquity is pardon'd.  
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
and make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

**Second Lesson:** *The Lord promises to send his people a righteous branch.*

**Jeremiah 23:5-6**

Cindy Little, lector

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**Anthem** "People, Look East"  
French Carol; Setting for Choir and Organ by Malcolm Archer

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.  
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today: Love the Star in on the way.*

**Third Lesson:** *The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.*

**Zechariah 9:9-10**

Marty Schwartz, lector

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**Anthem** “Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” from *Messiah*  
George Frideric Handel

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,  
and the king of glory shall come in.*

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

*Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

**Fourth Lesson:** *The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.*

**Haggai 2:6-9**

Marty Schwartz, lector

<sup>6</sup>For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; <sup>7</sup>and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup>The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup>The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

**Anthem** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

13<sup>th</sup> Century Plainsong; Setting for Choir and Handbells by John Erickson

*Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the world’s began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source the ending be;  
of the things that are, that have been, and the future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.*

**Fifth Lesson:** *The Prophet foretells the redemption of Israel.*

**Isaiah 35:1-6**

Brooks Stevenson, lector

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert...

**Anthem** “Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

John Ness Beck

*Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain made low;  
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**Sixth Lesson:** *The angel Gabriel foretells the birth of Jesus to Mary.*

**Luke 1:26-35, 38**

Brooks Stevenson, lector

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Anthem** “A Virgin Unspotted”

Tune JUDEA by William Billings

*A virgin unspotted by prophet foretold, should bring forth a Savior which now we behold,  
to be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, which Adam’s transgressions involved us in.*

*Then let us be merry, put sorrow away, our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day.*

*God sent down an angel from heaven so high, to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lie, and made them no longer in  
sorrow to stay, because that our Savior was born on this day.*

*Please stand as able.*

**Seventh Lesson:** *Jesus proclaims the nearness of the kingdom of God.*

**Mark 1:1-15**

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup>And the

Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*Please be seated.*

**Anthem** “Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes”

Hal H. Hopson

*Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums nor the manner of His airs, nor by anything He wears; thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or His gown, but His coming known shall be by the holy harmony which His coming makes in thee.*

**Sermon**

“Believe in the good news”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Wait For the Lord ” ELW 262 Sing three times

WAIT FOR THE LORD

Text: Taizé Community Music; Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 T&M© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIZ Publications, Inc.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" Above the second staff, the chords Em, D, G, Am, B, and Em are indicated above the notes.

**The Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession**

(Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant)

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray for the mission of the church in a world of many distractions, pulling people away

from spiritual commitment and trust in you. May our trust in you carry us no matter what forces try to pull us away from your life and love. You have promised never to leave us. Restore us to community with each other in the church when we are faced with fear, worry, anxiety, stress or depression. May we choose to trust in you, and may you always lead us into your care. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord of light, now is the time for being present and ready for the favor of the Lord. May Advent be a time of reflection and an opening to allow the Light of the World to come into our lives. The darkness is overcome by light. It cannot be hidden. It reveals the way of the Lord. May we share the life-giving light of Jesus with our neighbors, community and everyone that Jesus places in our path. Help us each day to be present and aware of those in need of your love. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort all who suffer in any way, and protect all who risk themselves to keep others safe. Strengthen and bless: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Betty Lentz, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, may we follow your example, giving heartfelt thanks for everything you have given to us. We are most thankful for the dedication of all staff and members of this congregation and all volunteers that give of their time, talents and resources, ensuring that our ministries, outreach programs, and worship and music continue to make St. Mark's relevant to your purposes. Lord, help us to see opportunities for growth that help individuals to work diligently in the mission and needs of this church. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, lead us to your kingdom, so that with all the saints, we might joyfully sing of your everlasting grace and love. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
*(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*

### MEAL

### **OFFERING**

*(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)*

*Please be seated.*

**Anthem**

“And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**Offertory**

*(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)*

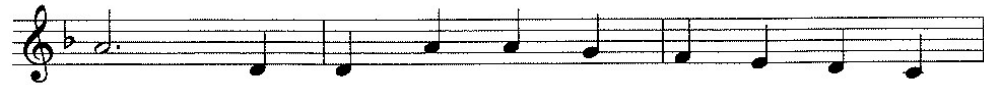
“Tidings of Comfort and Joy” stanza 1, from *Light the Candle*

Traditional English Carol; Setting for choir and congregation by Michael Burkhardt

Verses: Michael Burkhardt © 2020 Birnamwood; Refrain: Traditional English carol; Tune: GOD REST YE,



1. I - sai - ah, proph - et, seer of old, re - spond - ing to God's  
2. Pre - pare your heart, lift up your voice, join in this Ad - vent



call, pro - claimed the com - ing of the Lord to  
song; walk in the light of God's own Son to



peo - ple, great and small. Now on this day we  
whom we all be - long. A lit - tle child shall



hear God's word: de - clare good news to all!  
lead us all, his love will make us strong! O



tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

**Offering Prayer**

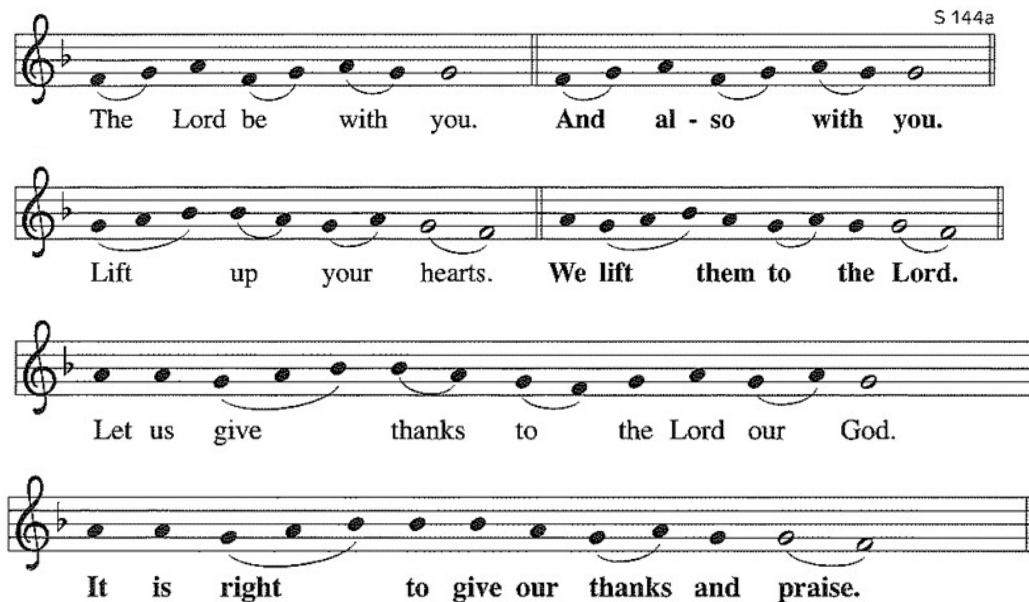
Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*Please stand as able.*

**Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

S 144a



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

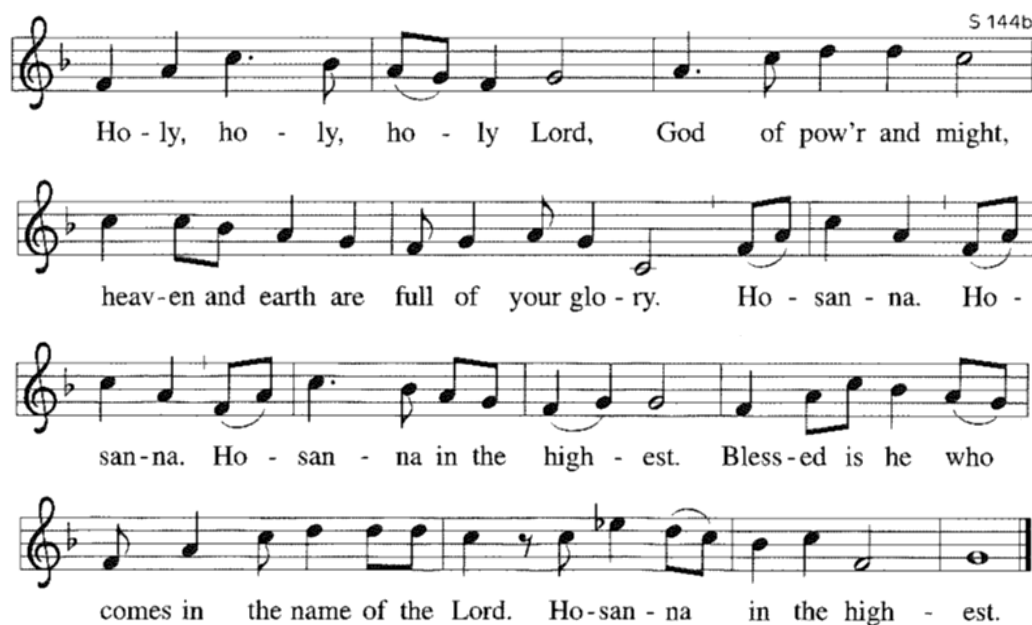
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

S 144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

### Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### Invitation

Be strong, do not fear!.

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*Please be seated.*

### Distribution of Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is offered continuously in front of the freestanding altar, or at the rail of the high altar in two ways, by "Communion Kit" or wafer and wine in a small cup. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station, and returning via the side aisles. If receiving a "kit" please seal the used utensils in the zip-lock bag, placing the bag after worship in the marked bowl in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.*

### Communion Music

"Lamb of God" from *Christmas Carol Mass*

Carroll Thomas Andrews

English Carol, Original adapt Carroll Thomas Andrews, 1918-2014, Adapt. John T. Kyler ©1966, 2022 GIA Publications, Inc.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

16th Century German Melody, Arr. Michael Praetoria  
Setting for string quartet and organ by Ralph C. Schultz

"Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice" from *Three Meditative Moravian Hymns*

Organ setting by Robert Elmore

*Please stand as able.*

## **Post-Communion Blessing**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **SENDING BLESSING**

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn** “Hark, the Glad Sound!” ELW 239

CHESTERFIELD

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751; Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Postlude**

“Gigue in D Major” for string quartet and organ

Johann Pachelbel

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Lisa Barnette, prayer assistant; crucifer/acolyte: Brady Ferner; lectors: Cindy Little, Mary Schwartz, Brooks Stevenson; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Tom Sehorn, Benny Cox, Karen Covington, Mindy Curley ; greeters: Kay Sehorn, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, Barbara Baker, Lisa Barnette, Cliff Edahl, Gretchen Payne; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir;

Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, assisting organist; Oliver Kot, Amanda Gentile, violin; Courtney Guthrie, viola; Jeremy Lamb, cello; Caleb Wilson, tenor soloist; Gretchen Dodge, Karen & Kevin Feezor, Sara Poplin, Flora Chance, handbells; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Maddie Thompson; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team C; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Jackie Ellington; communion assistants: Ken Hazen, Rebecca Huang, Chris & Brooks Stevenson, Nick Wartner; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Alan Harms, Charles Lakeman



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## Parish News

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### **From the pastor -**

Advent is a season of watching, waiting and preparation. "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of our Lord" (James 5:7). As the world speeds up into holiday hyper-drive, Advent encourages us to slowdown, take notice of God's presence in our lives, and prayerfully prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Advent is a season emphasizing the contrast between an often dark world and Christ, who is the light of the world. As Paul writes, "Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12).

This year there are many opportunities to watch, wait and prepare during Advent at St. Mark's. A new Advent devotional booklet is available for all who would like to enter into the quiet of prayerful meditation this season. Each Wednesday at 7 pm a Service of Word and Prayer will be held in the sanctuary, allowing us to quiet ourselves in the midst of the busyness of this season. Each Sunday, in word and music, worship draws us again into the mystery of God's Incarnation in Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to again remember that we are people of the light waiting for the advent of Christ who makes all things new. May you find peace and hope this season as we wait for Christ, the light of the world.

In the hope and love of Christ,  
Pastor Tim McKenzie  
pastorfimsmc@gmail.com

## Coming Up at St. Mark's

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Altar Flowers today** are given to the Glory of God in honor of the Music Program at St. Mark's and to all who participate. Christmas Blessings from Sarah Ingle

**Today at 5 pm - Queen City Ringers Christmas handbell concert. All are welcome.**

**Financial note:** To ensure that your 2022 donation/gifts/contribution are received and processed for this tax year, contributions must be received by noon on Wednesday, Dec. 28. If you have not done so, please consider making a pledge for 2023. Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ's ministry at St. Mark's!

### **Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule:**

Midweek Advent Services, 7 pm (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, in-person and online)

12/11 Third Sunday of Advent "Lessons & Carols"

12/11 Queen City Ringers Concert, 5 pm

12/18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

12/24 Christmas Eve Service, 8 pm

12/25 Christmas Day one service, 10:30am

1/1/2023 First Sunday of Christmas, one service, 10:30 am

1/6/2023 Epiphany Service, 7 pm

**St. Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group** will have its next dinner at Don Pedro's Mexican Restaurant in Pineville on December 20<sup>th</sup>. All persons are welcome to attend as many of these dinners as their schedules and interests may accommodate. "One-timers" are certainly welcome!

- Date: December 20, 2022
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Address: 10015 Lee St, Pineville, NC 28134

Please RSVP to Tom or Judy Tolbert (Please contact the church office) by the Sunday before the dinner. The restaurant is in the shopping center at the intersection of NC-51 and South Polk Street, Pineville (Old US-521/South Blvd extension), behind the Mobil gas station that is in the very corner lot. Lee St is the main driveway through that shopping center.

**New WiFi Network at St. Mark's** To access the new wi-fi network, please select the network named "SMLC-Guest" in the wi-fi settings of your device, log on using the password Th@nksB2G0d! (that's zero, not a capital "O"), and click "yes" to the prompt asking your device to remember this network for automatic ongoing access each time you return to St. Mark's.

**The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays.** Please join us as you are able.

**The Faith Forum class** invites everyone to join us at 9:30 in the Large Conference room for study and reflection on the Holy Scriptures. We will not meet 12/18,25,& 1/1. Class will resume 1/8.

**"Hybrid Worship"** is both in-person and online worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this pandemic.

**Online worship** continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

**St. Mark's email list** If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

### **Stewardship**

#### **2023 Stewardship Appeal**

If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the

coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

**You may use the QR code at left** (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.



**Altar Flower Sponsorship** If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

### **Social Ministry**

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

**Loaves and Fishes** Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

**Soup Kitchen** St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

### **Youth and Family Ministry**

#### **Youth Classes**

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

**Confirmation Class** will meet Sunday, December 4 & 18 at 9:30.

#### **Announcements**

**Open Eyes Help Everyone!** If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

**AA meets** Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Music Notes

The **Service of Lessons and Carols** tradition was established toward the end of nineteenth century England by Reverend G.H.S. Walpole in Truro, Cornwall. The first festival was held at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. It is said the church at Truro had a tradition of its choirs caroling throughout the town, singing carols at residences of members of the congregation. At the request of parishioners, "an ordinary carol service" was born. A local newspaper announced the new service, noting that a like service has been instituted in other cathedrals and large towns, and has been much appreciated." **Advent Carol Services** were created especially for schools and colleges, where it has been frowned upon to celebrate Christmas while classes were still in session and the church calendar was still of Advent.

**"People, Look East!** ELW 248 This Advent hymn was written by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), who is best known for writing "Morning Has Broken." ELW 556. "People, Look East" has been included in many hymnals since it first appeared in *The Oxford Book of Carols* in 1928. The depiction of Love as Guest, Rose, Star, and Lord is "on the way" is quite lovely, and sets "every peak and valley humming." The lively tune **BESANCON** is named for a city in eastern France where the French carol originated. Our choir sings a setting by English composer, conductor and organist Malcolm Archer (b. 1952).

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** ELW 254 was penned by the great English hymn writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Charles wrote over nine thousand hymns and poems, with ten included in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Though included in the Advent section of most hymnals, this hymn was written as a Christmas hymn, and included in his collection *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord* (1745). Austin Lovelace writes: "Names given for Jesus: strength, consolation, hope, dear desire, and joy. Also note the use of the word Born three times to begin lines of poetry in stanza two. The hymn's ultimate emphasis is on the kingship of Jesus, closing with a prayer that Christ will rule in our hearts alone." This morning we sing this great hymn, set to the Welsh tune **HYFRYDOL**.

**Lessons and Carols Instrumentalists** We welcome four guest musicians to our worship this morning at St. Mark's. The presence of this string quartet is made possible by gifts to the Music Fund of St. Mark's Lutheran, dedicated to the Glory of God, from the Anne Martin Schwartz Music Endowment, the William & Mabel Doser Music Endowment, and these individuals: Steve & Sandy Rach, Grey Hunter Hamilton, Marcia Newlin, Barbara Baker, Tom & Judy Tolbert, David Thomason & Ted Seman, Larry Dagenhart, Lowell Engelhard, Cliff & Joann Edahl, Paul Koehnke & Jay Norvell, Layton Campbell & Lester Ackerman

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **December 13, Lucy, martyr (283-304)**

The historical details of Lucy's life have been lost, and much of what is remembered about her is legend. Lucy was probably a young Christian from Sicily who was martyred in the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian in the year 304. Her Latin name is *Lucia*, meaning "light." Legend is that in martyrdom she lost her eyes and ability to see, and hence also became the patron saint of the blind. This image is evocative of one who, even without the light of eyesight, possessed an inner faith to truly see God. Coinciding with the winter solstice, Lucy is also venerated in Scandinavia as *Sankta Lucia*, the bearer of the light of Christ during the Advent season.

### **December 14, John of the Cross, renewer of the church (1542-1591)**

John was a monk of the Carmelite order who met Teresa of Avila when she was working to reform the Carmelite order and return it to a stricter observance of its rules. He followed Teresa's lead and encouraged others to follow her reform. He was imprisoned when he encountered opposition to the reform. Like Teresa, John was a mystical theologian, and his writings are thought of be the peak of mystical Christian writing. John's drawing of the Crucifixion inspired Salvador Dali's 1951 painting "Christ of Saint John of the Cross."  
*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, and Sam Temple.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))

### Birthdays

12/11 Joe Summer  
12/12 Jonathan Lakeman  
12/13 Sarah Lindberg  
12/14 Kathleen Williams  
12/14 Emily Reinke  
12/16 Astrid Doyne  
12/16 Ashely Frusti

### Readings for 12/18/2022, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
*Let your face shine upon us, and  
we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim ([pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com))

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## *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**  
[pastortimsmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

**Lester Ackerman,**  
**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**  
[lackerman2@aol.com](mailto:lackerman2@aol.com)

**Sue Wadgyamar, Parish Administrator**  
[stmarkselca1001@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkselca1001@gmail.com)

**Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator**  
[saintmarksfinance@gmail.com](mailto:saintmarksfinance@gmail.com)

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | [saintmarkscharlotte.org](http://saintmarkscharlotte.org) | 704.375.9185