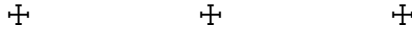




ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



DECEMBER 18, 2022

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Isaiah's prophesy of a young woman who will bear a son, naming him Emmanuel, is the foretelling of Matthew's gospel about the annunciation and birth of Emmanuel, "God with us." Christ's living presence helps us during these final days of Advent, as we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," always trusting that he lives in us. On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death, freeing us to live for others.

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

"Ding, Dong, Merrily on High"

Traditional English Carol
Setting for Handbells by Fred Gramann

Please stand as able.

Processional Hymn "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251 KINGSFOLD

1. My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim-
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
2. To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.
3. To Israel, your servant blest, you help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat;
Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; Text 1995 Augsburg Fortress; Arr. Oxford University Press

Please be seated.

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Musical Interlude

“Away in a Manger”

Tunes by William Kirkpatrick & James Murray
Setting for Handbells by Anna Laura Page

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

- O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors

Psalm 80:7 (Robert Hobby) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A-BC* 2007 Augsburg Fortress



¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. ¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Lisa Barnette, lector

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Prayers of Intercession

(Maddie Thompson, 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.*

God of all nations, your people speak different languages and worship you in unique ways, but we are all witnesses to the saving grace of your son, Jesus Christ. We ask for your help in amplifying diverse voices in your church, spreading your word to every corner of the globe. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, awaken us to the vast splendor of the cosmos, the beauty of the earth, and the marvelous diversity of life you have created; grant us wisdom to repair what we have damaged through greed and neglect, and give to us your compassion so that all people may share in the abundance of your creation. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of caring, you taught us to love one another as you have loved us. Grant us the courage to follow the example of your Son and reach out to our neighbors, including those living in a tent city just a few miles from this church, who need our love, care, and support as they struggle with homelessness in a cold and difficult winter. Please encourage and strengthen members of our church family: 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 and Jimmy Schwartz. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of righteousness, your Son Jesus announces your kingdom of peace and justice. Raise up leaders in this nation and in every nation who will act for the justice for all people; help governments to promote peace and human rights, to end poverty and hunger, and the sin of discrimination and injustice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, in a world in seemingly constant turmoil and chaos it can be easy to lose sight of where our focus should be. Clear the path for us to make faithful and empathetic decisions as we navigate the world around us. Give us insight into how we can uplift each other in our own independent journeys. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you bring life out of death, and in Christ you promise to be God with us forever. May your light perpetual shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise, and may you also bring us into your blessed kingdom of peace. 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.

And also with you.

(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

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

Setting for choir and organ by Michael Burkhardt

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, written 1744, alt.; Music: Michael Burkhardt © 2020 Birnamwood Publications

*Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free; from our fears and sins release us;
grant us peace and liberty. Awake our hearts to receive you, transform our hearts by your grace,
through our lives reveal your mercy, in this and ev'ry place. Born your people to deliver, born a child,
and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.*

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
call, pro - claimed the com - ing of the Lord to
peo - ple, great and small. Now on this day we
hear God's word: de - clare good news to all! 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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: '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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic and energetic than the previous section. The lyrics are: '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.

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Tune IN DULCI JUBILO 14th Century German Carol
Organ setting by David Cherwien

“Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God”

George Frideric Handel

Delenn Rumbolo, soprano, Christian Souza, baritone

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come. Thy truth unseal, Thy love reveal. Lord,
hear Thou in mercy our prayer to Thee, come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come.
Come in Thy might. Send forth Thy light. Come, Jesus, O Holy Son of God.
For Thee we long. Hear Thou our prayer. To Thee be glory now and evermore.*

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 “People, Look East” ELW 248

BESANCON

1. 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.
2. 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 flow’r may
flourish.
People, look east, and sing today-Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. 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, is on the way.
4. Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev’ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today-Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Fargeon, 1881-1965 ©Miss E. Fargeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Assoc.
Arr. ©1999 Novello & Co. Ltd. London.; Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”

French Carol
Organ setting by Keith Chapman

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This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Maddie Thompson, prayer assistant; crucifer: Michael Lakeman; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Tom Sehorn, Benny Cox, Karen Covington, Mindy Curley ; 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; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; St. Mark's Handbells; Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors: Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, vocal soloists; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer: tbd; acolyte: tbd; lector: Lowell Englehard; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team C; greeters: tbd; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, Barbara Baker, Flora Chance, Cliff Edahl, Karen Feezor; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding

✝ ✝ ✝



*Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.*

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
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers today are given in loving memory of Sue Heinrich Schwartz and Anne Martin Schwartz.

Fed & Forgiven: The Gift of Holy Communion -

Today we celebrate with Olivia Grant, who has completed the "Fed and Forgiven" curriculum about Holy Communion. May Olivia continue to grow in faith with a deepened understanding of

Christ's real presence in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which forgives us so that renewed in faith, we might love God and serve our neighbor.

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:

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

Poinsettias and Wreaths for Christmas If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia or a wreath with a memorial or dedication, you may do so by filling out a form or contacting the church office. The cost of poinsettias is the same as last year and is \$11.00. The wreaths cost about \$20.00. Please have your information and payment to the church office on or before December 20th. Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or by calling the church office to schedule an appointment.

St. Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group will have its next dinner at Don Pedro's Mexican Restaurant in Pineville on December 20th. 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 (contact the church office) by Dec. 18th. 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 "SMC-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.

Committee for Visible Partnerships This committee has been appointed by St. Mark's Congregation Council for the purpose of exploring and envisioning the use of St. Mark's building by outside organizations in the furtherance Christ's mission by raising awareness of our presence in this community. Committee members are: Cliff Edahl, Genna Hurley, Rob Johnson, Gretchen Payne, Melissa Smith and Pastor Tim McKenzie.

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.

Habitat for Humanity We need your help! The Habitat build is on schedule, and we successfully served lunch to the volunteers on November 12, BUT we are very short of our \$2,000 commitment to the build. If at all possible, please send a donation check to the church office with "Habitat" noted on the memo line. We would like to fulfill our portion of the needed funds. Thank you for your consideration of the appeal.

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

On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our reading from Matthew's Gospel honors the Virgin Mary, and that she will bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel. **"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"** ELW 251, is a paraphrase and musical setting of the passage from Luke's Gospel, the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise. This hymn was co-written by Martin Seltz (b. 1951) and Frank Stoldt (b. 1958), and first included in *With One Voice* (1995), the supplement to the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978). The tune **KINGSFOLD** was arranged by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) from a folk tune he heard in a town named Kingsfold in Surrey, England.

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW 247 Geonyong Lee (b. 1947) is a well-known Korean composer and professor of composition. He wrote this hymn text and tune for the opening worship service of the world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula on April 25, 1988. It was first published in a book *Sound the Bamboo* (1990) edited by I-to Loh (b. 1936), a leading authority on Asian hymnody. He writes "this hymn has been used all over the world as a prayer for peace, love, freedom, and unification." The tune **OSOSO** takes its name from the first word of the Korean hymn, and utilizes only five notes of the scale.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

December 20, Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church (1499-1552)

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katharina (Katie) was five when her mother died, and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin, and she became a trusted life partner for Martin. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her "my lord Katie." Their marriage was a partnership in which Katie managed the family estate and administrated the household finances.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

Ethic Restaurant Group

Tuesday, December 20 at 7 PM

Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant

Please RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by 12/18



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, Sam Temple, and Jimmy Schwartz.

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

Readings for 12/25/2022,

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

*All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God. (Ps. 98:3)*

Hebrews 1:1-4

John 1:1-14

Birthdays

12/18 Millie Cansler

12/19 Eric Timm

12/20 Carol Milheim

12/20 Warren Miller IV

12/23 Ben McCall



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)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

lackerman2@aol.com

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