



ST. MARK'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS DAY
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.
The Offering will be brought forward by the usher during the Offertory Anthem.
Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.*

Prelude

“Carol Rhapsody” from *Eleven Pieces for Organ*

Traditional Carols; Organ Setting by Richard Purvis

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Gathering Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

3. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. Unknown, st. 2; Music: attr. John Francis Wade

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession.

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 holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,
**Against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**

Amen.

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279

ST. LOUIS

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text & Music: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

Carol “The First Noel” ELW 300

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional; Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Please stand as able.

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. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Carol “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” ELW 282

CAROL

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

WORD

Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Lowell Engelhard

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.³ He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Carol “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

MEDELSSOHN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

Please stand as able.

The Holy Gospel John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Reflect His Glory”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “Away in a Manger” ELW 277

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th century; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

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.**

the grave, and to secure for us a place with You in everlasting life. Help us to remember that Christmas is but the beginning of our journey with Christ, and open our eyes to all the ways that You will reveal Yourself to us along the way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of light, in Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for the faithful saints in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May your glory and love shine forth from the living saints in our own generation, always pointing to your eternal kingdom of grace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
Amen.

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

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.

Offertory “Dance Prelude on ‘Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” French Carol
Organ Setting by Christopher Uehlein

Offertory Hymn *(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)*
“What Child Is This” ELW 296 GREENSLEEVES

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

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 *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys, and taught them
by the prophets.

You so loved the world that
you gave your only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not
perish but have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,
now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be offered in two ways, by a “Communion Kit” or by wafer and wine in a small cup. Communion will be continuous in front of the freestanding altar. After receiving a “kit” please return via the side aisles to your pew to partake of communion. Please seal used communion utensils in the zip-lock kit bag. The Real Presence of Jesus Christ continues to abide in the bread and the cup, blessing, renewing and forgiving us to lead lives of love, justice and service for others.

Communion Music

“What Child Is This” from *Four Carol Preludes*

16th Century English Carol; Organ Setting by Richard Purvis

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Carol

“Angels, from The Realms of Glory” ELW 275 REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,
the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *refrain*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“Toccata on ‘Joy to the World’” from *Preludes for the Christmas Season*
Organ Setting by Michael Bedford

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; lector: Lowell Engelhard; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Tom Sehorn, Benny Cox, Karen Covington, Mindy Curley ; greeters: Ted Seman, David Thomason, the Finlon family; communion assistant: Karen Feezor; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding; musician: Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team D; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes, ; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Gretchen Payne, Barbara Baker, Lisa Barnett, Rebecca Huang; communion helper: TBD; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Dianne Thomas

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From the pastor -

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ, we are encountered by the God whose kingdom dwells in the human heart, a kingdom crossing all borders of nation, culture and language. Isaiah points toward a kingdom giving unity to human beings across the globe and across time. In Christ, our time has been forever interrupted by God's eternity. Isaiah's "born for us" reveals that the Messiah's kingdom of peace will be established not in one particular nation or people, but in all nations and peoples.

If you have ever worshipped in another nation or language, you will readily understand that through faith, Jesus Christ is born into the hearts of people all over this world, crossing boundaries and borders, making us all sisters and brothers with Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate a holy mystery that has been, as Isaiah wrote, growing "continually" since Jesus' birth. He seeks to dwell in your heart so that through you, Christ might extend his reign of justice and righteousness further and further across time and space. Your life is the means by which God furthers this kingdom. Christ has come down to earth to raise you to heaven so that you might share God's infinite kingdom of grace and peace with all whom you meet.

A blessed Christmas to you,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Christmas Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the anniversary of Cliff and Joann Edahl.

A blessed Christmas season to you! May you know the love and the peace of God in your life this season and always!

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!

Christmas Worship Schedule:

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

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

1/6/2023 Epiphany Service, 7 pm

The church office will be closed Monday, 12/26/22 and Monday, 1/2/23. May the Light of Christ lead you throughout the New Year!

Fundraiser for Nursery Ministry at Brixx, Wednesday

1/11/23 Locations: Brixx Dilworth located at 1801 Scott Avenue AND Brixx Foxcroft 7814 Fairview Road. St Mark's will receive \$4 per adult entrée and \$1 per kid's meal. These funds will go towards replenishing the Nursery Fund. Forms are available in the Gathering Place-the form is required for St. Mark's to receive the funds. See the January ReMark'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/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

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 be made using this code also.



2023 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

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. Remember a loved one or commemorate an event by donating altar flowers.

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 every other Sunday at 9:30.

Announcements

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

Scam Alert We have again seen a rise in people posing as the pastor or a member of St. Mark's, asking for a reply or to click on an encrypted file. Please do not reply to any email or click on any attachment that seems suspicious. Also please know that the church staff will never ever solicit from you. If you are ever in doubt, please call the church (704-375-9185), or email the church office immediately. Thank you!
(stmarkselca1001@gmail.com).

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 First Noel" ELW 300 is the last hymn in the Christmas section of our hymnal. The first few stanzas have the shepherds in the fields looking up at the star in the eastern sky (Luke 2:1-20), and then the wise men follow that star, which leads them to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). We know very little about the origin of either the text or the tune, both English. We do know the text first appeared in print in 1823, *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, a revised and second publication by Davies Gilbert. Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) composed a harmonization of the tune **THE FIRST NOWELL** in the late nineteenth century, the version that appears in our hymnal.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

December 26, Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those even upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning, with Saul (later Paul) as one of the observers. As he died, Stephen witnessed to his faith and spoke of a vision of heaven.

December 27, John Apostle and Evangelist

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was the one among the twelve disciples known as "beloved," and was a witness to the Transfiguration. Tradition has named him the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters that bear his name, and the Book of Revelation. Tradition has also witnessed to John being the youngest of the disciples, and one who lived to an advanced age in Ephesus, having taught Polycarp, who was later to teach Irenaeus. John is a saint for Christmas through his proclamation that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and that the light shines in the darkness.

December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day were the children two years old and younger of Bethlehem, killed by Herod who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of a new king. Augustine called these innocents, "buds, killed by the frost of persecution the moment they showed themselves." Those linked to Jesus through their youth and innocence encountered the same hostility Jesus encountered later in his ministry.

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, Paul Davis, 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 1/1/2022, Christmas 1 (Name of Jesus)

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalms 8

*How majestic is your name in
all the earth. (Ps. 8:1)*

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 2:15-21

Birthdays

12/25 Marc Ginns

12/25 Tyler Andujar

12/25 Phillip Foust

12/27 Sally McCauley



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)



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

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

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Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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