



MARK'S

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



NOVEMBER 30, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

A new church year begins: Christ is coming soon! Today's readings challenge us to wake from sleep and to live alert to the needs of others for we know neither the day nor the hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all nations on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we wait for the consummation of the day of the Lord, each day, we walk with Christ who is Emmanuel, God with us.

GATHERING

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

15th century German Carol

Setting for cello and organ by Michael Bedford

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" ELW 239

CHESTERFIELD

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

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.

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 holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

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

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
But according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven
Saved by grace,
And ready to welcome the Savior.
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.

Please stand as able.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

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

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Larry Lippert, lector

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

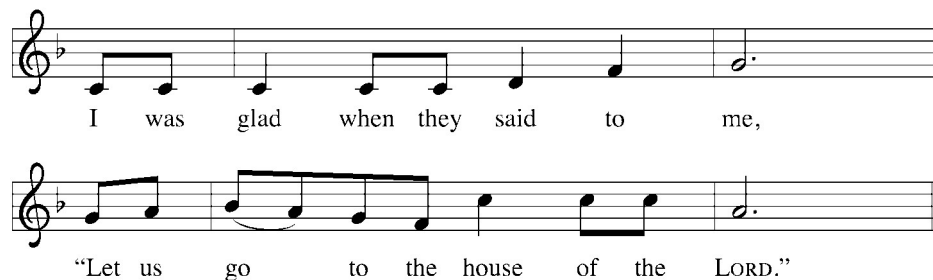
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 122

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 122:1 from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



I was glad when they | said to me, "Let us go to the house | of the LORD." ²Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem. ³Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself; ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. R ⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David. ⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. ⁷Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers. ⁸For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity. ⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God, I will seek to | do you good." R

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Larry Lippert, lector

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

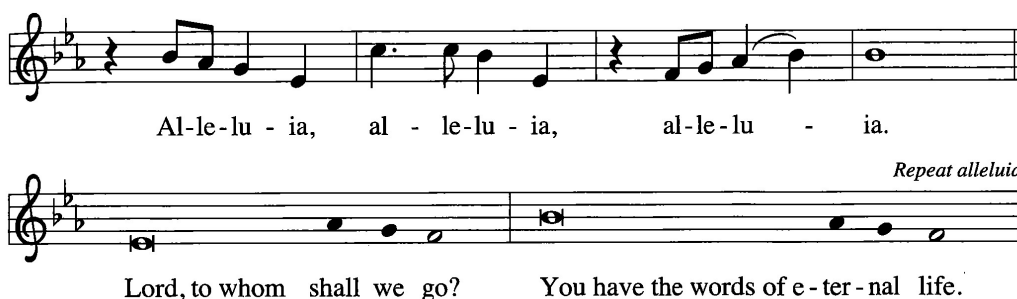
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go" from *ACS Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



The Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Keep awake and be ready”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW 247

OSOSO

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope; Music: Geonyong Lee; T&M: © Geonyong Lee

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

The Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Dave Dunlap, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

God of the nations, in Christ you have established your reign of peace forever. Bless bishops, clergy, and all the people of God in every nation to put on Christ and walk in his light. Bless your church in every language to overcome hatred and discrimination and to work for peace among all nations and people so that all the world might know your grace and mercy. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of life, we give thanks for a bountiful harvest, and ask that you teach us to be good stewards of earth's bounty, sharing our food and resources with those who are hungry. Teach us to seek profit not from selfish use of creation but to profit by helping and serving those in need so that your creation might bless and sustain all that has the breathe of life. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for all who suffer because of war and conflict. Even with ceasefires announced and negotiators at the table, we continue to see misery and anguish. Violence continues in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in the back yards of our nation with more than one mass shooting every day, yet so often our comfort, wealth, and security insulate us from these tragedies. Teach us the compassion and understanding needed to end such violence, and grant wisdom and strength to our leaders, helping them to set aside partisanship and personal interests to work for peace and love among all people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Healing God, as we continue into colder weather and more time indoors, help us to protect ourselves from the invisible enemies of flu, RSV, and COVID. Guide doctors, nurses, and other caregivers in their work of protecting, caring, and healing, and protect the sick, ease their burdens, and reassure their families. Bless and strengthen our extended church family: Sandy Rach, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, your Son teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet today mercenaries hiding behind masks can take away those who have caused no harm. Help us live the ethics of the Bible by welcoming the stranger and the foreigner, to be merciful and compassionate to communities and families in need,

and to provide warm meals and shelter for the hungry and homeless. Help our leaders to walk in your light, to live and to act decently, so that all people in our society, and in every land, are protected and nurtured. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, the day of your coming is near. Bless us to throw off the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light. Teach us to beat swords into plowshares and to work for peace, so that when you come to judge the nations, we might be found among your righteous people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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

Please be seated.

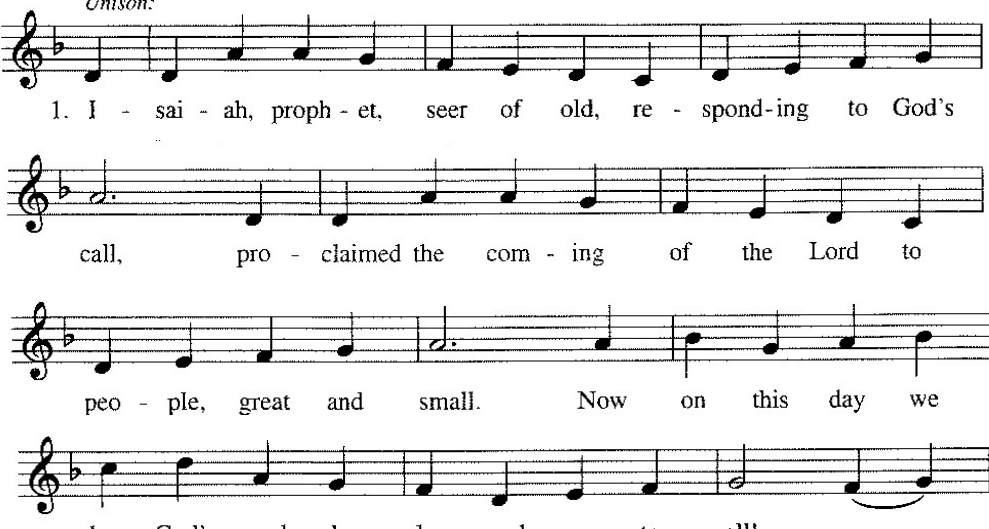
OFFERING *(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)*

Anthem “An Advent Card” Jody W. Lindh
All the earth is waiting for the birth of God’s Son, soon the celebrating will bring honor to the Holy One. Sing with joy your carols here, soon the Christ Child will appear! How do we wait? How do we get ready for the coming of God’s Son? How do we wait? How do we get ready for the birth of the Holy One? Be ready, be strong keep awake, it won’t be long! Be patient, always pray, do what is good, prepare the way!

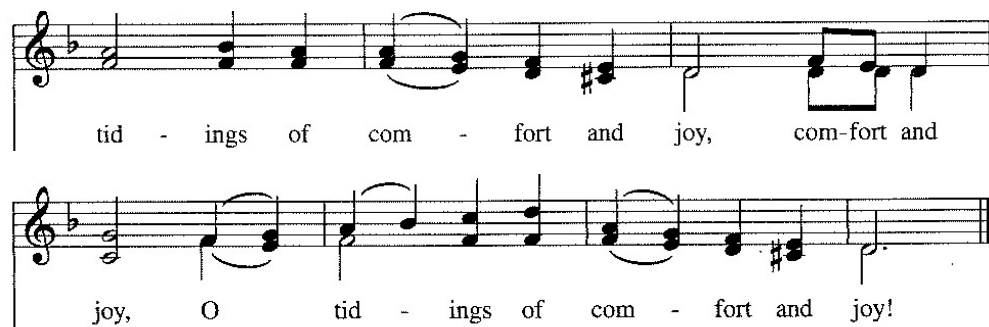
Please stand as able.

Offertory *(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)*
“Tidings of Comfort and Joy” stanza one, from *Light the Candle*
Traditional English Carol
Setting for choir and congregation by Michael Burkhardt

Unison:



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



Offering Prayer

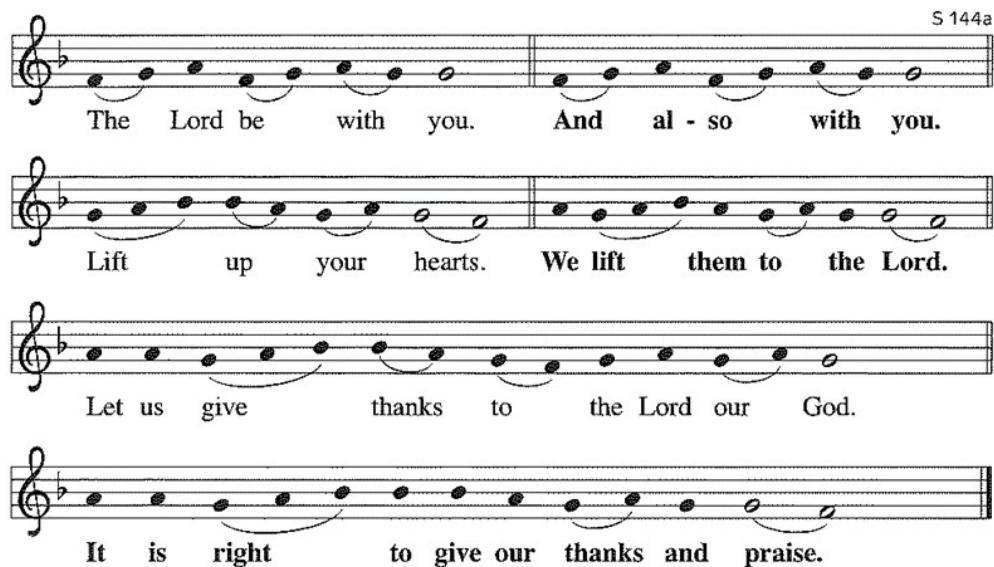
Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion Setting Three

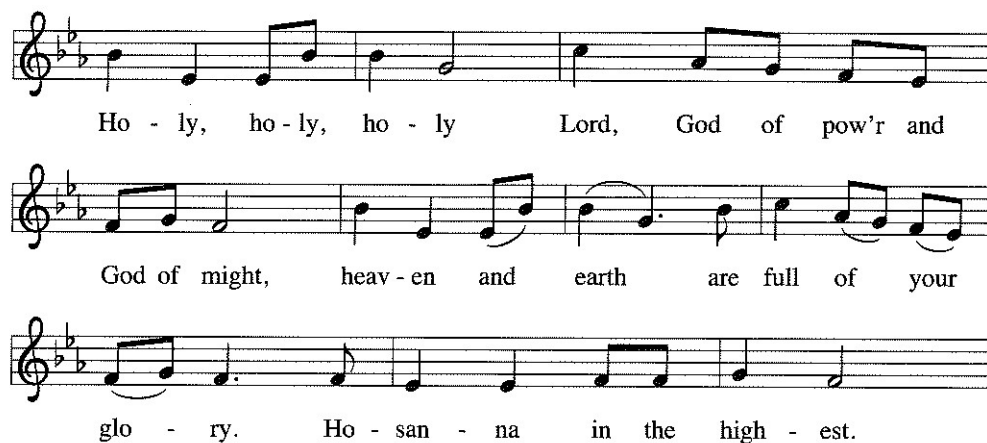


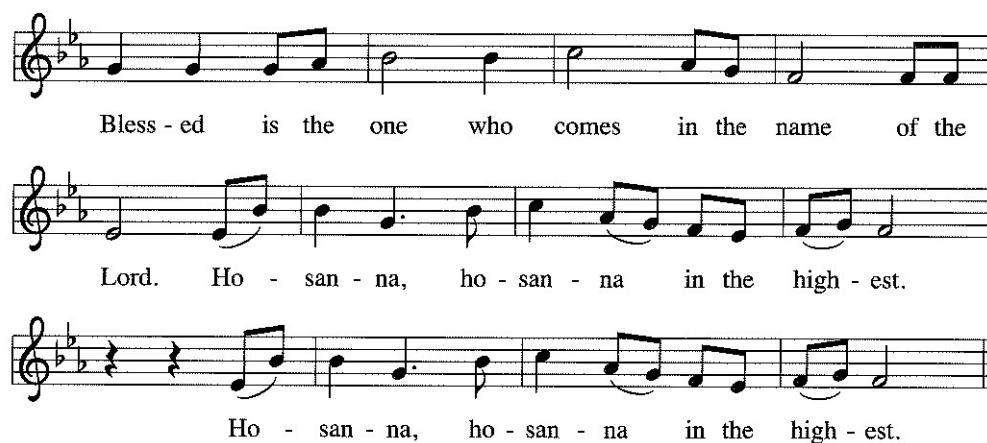
Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Twelve





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

Here is life, God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available.

Communion Music

"Lamb of God" from *Christmas Carol Mass*

Traditional English Carol

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.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” Tune by Gustav Holst
Setting for cello and organ by David M. Cherwien

“We are Waiting for Jesus” ACS 905 JESUS BRINGS PEACE

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up-on us; we are trust - ing in your prom-ise.
Lov-ing Shep-herd, walk be-side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

“Sleepers Awake, a Voice Is Calling” BWV 645 Johann Sebastian Bach

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come” ELW 263

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-398; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; Music: J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbuchlein*, 1524

1. Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
3. Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
4. From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.
5. Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light,
night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
6. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Worship has ended. You are free to depart or you may remain for the postlude.

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Allegro con spirito

Setting for organ by Paul O. Manz

✙

✙

✙

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/ acolyte: Needed; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Simon, Mike Doyne, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Michael Thompson; greeters: Eddie & Carol Goodall, Patrick & Rebecca Huang; communion assistants: Cliff Edahl, Rebecca Huang, Karen & Kevin Feezor, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Janice Miller, Joe Barrett; musicians: St. Mark's

Choir; John Brumbaugh, cellist; Nick Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: TBD; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team B; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Virginia Molan, Tom Puky, Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators :Meg Fielding, Karen Feezor

Parish News

From the pastor -

"Watch, Prepare, Rejoice, and Behold" are the four traditional themes of Advent. In Week 1, Jesus tells us to "Watch" because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. In Week 2, John the Baptist echoes Isaiah's words, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord" making straight his paths in this world. In Week 3, Isaiah writes that the desert will "rejoice and blossom," for God will come with vengeance to save creation, and "everlasting joy shall be upon their heads." And in Week 4, Matthew writes of Jesus' birth as the prophetic fulfillment, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." These themes of Advent encourage us to be attentive and awake to Christ's ongoing advent in our lives and relationships. These themes encourage us to be prayerful and alert, always ready to point to Christ's ongoing and yet new presence in this world. I encourage you to take time for quiet and prayer during this busy season, that your hearts might be open to Jesus Christ raised and alive in your life, and through you, in this world.

In the peace and light of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar flowers today are given for the glory of God and in celebration of Tom Tolbert's birthday by Judy and Roxi Tolbert.

Advent Midweek Prayer 12/3, 10, & 17 at 7 pm. During Advent, prepare your heart with prayer and song!

The St. Mark's Book Group will meet this Friday, Dec. 5, at 11 am in the large conference room. This will be a work session for selecting books for 2026. We will share

a light pot luck lunch. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

12/7 Advent Lessons and Carols A service of readings and carols for the season of Advent will be presented on the Second Sunday of Advent during our 10:30 am worship. St. Mark's Choir and St. Mark's Handell Choir will present anthems, hymns and carols, and instrumental selections for the season of Advent.

12/7 Pastor Alexandra Rode begins ministry with us.

Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims If you would like to help, please hover your phone camera over the QR code to connect to the NC Synod's website.

Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussions. The class meets in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

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.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. **2026** Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. 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.



2025 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

ROOM IN THE INN is just around the corner when we will be hosting 10 homeless men each Tuesday during January and February. We are **requesting donations of the following items** we offer our homeless guests— * travel size men's deodorant * individually packaged toothbrush * travel size toothpaste, still in its box * travel size body lotion, fragrance free * lip balm/chapstick * dental floss * pocket tissue packets. **BEDTIME SNACKS** * lunch size bags of chips, pretzels, goldfish * granola bars (preferably without nuts) * small bags of fruit snacks. **ITEMS WE DO NOT NEED** (dispensers in showers) * soap/body wash * shampoo * conditioner * mouthwash (as requested by Roof Above). A collection basket is in the hall on the table across from the large conference room. Your help in

all this will be GREATLY APPRECIATED by the Social Ministry committee and the homeless men we serve.

NOURISH UP (formerly Loaves & Fishes) is facing **empty shelves**. Nourish Up is also unable to replenish this shortage because of a sharp cut in federal funding. They need financial assistance to purchase fresh produce, dairy products and bread to accompany the donated non-perishables. Checks can be sent to St. Mark's with "Nourish Up" on the memo line. Our baker's rack will always be waiting for your generous donations of "unbreakable nonperishable" food items. Thank you for your continuous support.

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!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 pm; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 pm; & Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 pm; "SLAA" meets in Room 106: Mondays men only at 6 pm; Thursdays at 6:30 pm & Saturday morning 10:30 am.

Music Notes

"Savior of the Nations, Come" ELW 263, comes to us from Ambrose of Milan (340-397 A.D.), who is often referred to as the father of Latin hymnody or church song. Paul Westermeyer writes: "Ambrose was not the first to write hymns, but his hymns were the first ones the church found worth keeping." This hymn rings the keynote for Advent, with six stanzas providing opportunity to proclaim God's purpose in sending the Messiah and our response to this Good News. The hymn was translated into German by Martin Luther in 1523 and the translation begins, **NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND** (the tune name). Martin Luther is certainly revered for his reforming activities, writing, teaching and work as a pastor, but he also wrote and adapted many hymn tunes to accommodate his hymn texts, this hymn being a probable collaboration with publisher and colleague Johann Walter (1496-1560).

"We Are Waiting for Jesus" ACS 905 John Helgen (b. 1957) is the author of this text, and composer of the tune **JESUS BRINGS PEACE**. Helgen is a graduate of St. Olaf College, with a degree in music theory and composition. Additionally, he earned a degree in law from the University of Minnesota, and was a practicing attorney until 1999, now serving as director of music at Roseville Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minnesota. He writes of this hymn: "It was written as a song for the lighting of the Advent candles on the four Advent Sundays. Originally one could alternate other words for 'peace' (that is, joy, love, hope) on the various Sundays. It may have been conceived as a song for children."

"Hark, the Glad Sound" ELW 239 This hymn holds the place as the first hymn in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. It was written by a Nonconformist English clergyman Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). He wrote about four hundred hymns, mostly for use after his sermons. This hymn was written for Sunday, December 28, 1735,

written to go with Luke 4:18-19, where Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 that "the spirit of the Lord is upon me" and announces that these words are "fulfilled in your hearing." The hymn picks up the liberating motifs there: prisoners are released, the oppressed go free, the poor are graced, and the proclamation is made. The tune **CHESTERFIELD** is from the hymn collection *Hymns to the Saviour* (Bath, 1702) compiled by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820), and named after Lord Chesterfield.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

December 1, Andrew, Apostle

Andrew was the first of the Twelve. In the gospels of Matthew and Mark he was called directly by Jesus, along with his brother Peter. In the Gospel of John, Andrew was one of two of John the Baptist's followers who were called by Jesus. Andrew in turn, brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus, saying, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). Further, Andrew is the disciple who brought forward to Jesus the boy with five loaves and two fish (John 6:8). Andrew, along with Philip, also brought a group of Greeks to Jesus who had said the words, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21), which are quoted on the plaque behind St. Mark's pulpit. In the words of John Chrysostom, Andrew was "The Peter before Peter." Andrew is known as a fisherman who left his net to follow Jesus and is remembered as a martyr to his faith.

December 3, Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, (1506-1552)

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Francis Xavier was one of the initial seven, and a co-founder of the Jesuits, that formed around Ignatius de Loyola in 1534. Ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier was a missionary to Goa, India, Southeast Asia, and Japan. He was appointed Apostolic nuncio to the East. Xavier is remembered for his evangelistic work among indigenous peoples and children. He set the course for mission in Asia and Japan, which was radical at the time, emphasizing learning local languages for preaching and catechetical work.

December 4, John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter (c.675/676-749)

Born to a wealthy family in Damascus and well educated in Greek and Arabic, John followed his grandfather and father into a career in finance and government, later leaving this to become a monk in an abbey near Jerusalem. John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. Foremost among the latter is a work called "The Fount of Wisdom," which touches on philosophy, heresy, and the orthodox faith. Drawing upon the teachings of Nicene and post-Nicene theology, it is a summary of the Christian faith that remained influential for centuries.

December 6, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, (270-342)

Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. He was a bishop in what is now Turkey, and is reported to have been at the Council of Nicaea in 325. Stories that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. Nicholas' legendary habit of secret gift-giving became the model for Sinterklaas, or Santa Claus.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!			
ADVENT AT ST. MARK'S	11 / 30, 12 / 7, 14, 21	Sundays of Advent 8:30 & 10:30 am	
	12 / 3, 10, 17	Advent Midweek Worship 7 pm	
CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S	12 / 24	Christmas Eve	5 pm Family Christmas 8:30 pm Nativity of Our Lord Holy Communion. Music begins at 8 pm
	12 / 28	First Sunday of Christmas 10:30 am only	
WINTER MUSICAL OFFERINGS	12 / 7	"Lessons and Carols" - 10:30 am Service	
	12 / 12	Carolina Pro Musica Christmas Concert 7:30 pm	
	12 / 14	Christmas Soprano Concert 2 pm	
	12 / 21	Queen City Ringers "A Winter Star" 5 pm	

St. Mark's Prayer List

Sandy Rach, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Diane Thornton, Polly Needham, John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 12/7/2024, Second Sunday of Advent (10:30 Lessons & Carols)

Isaiah 40:1-8	Isaiah 35:1-6
Jeremiah 23:5-6	Luke 1:26-35, 38
Zechariah 9:9-10	Mark 1: 1-15
Haggai 2:6-9	

Birthdays

12/1 Tom Tolbert
12/5 Judy Cox



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 (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist
les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator
finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org