



The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5, 2021
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader.
Bold text indicates the congregational response.

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the
cranberry-colored *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

arr. Egil Hovland

The Advent wreath, which probably originated among early Lutherans in Germany, is a symbol of waiting and watchfulness during the weeks of Advent.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

L We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.

C **Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen**

*Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive!
Colossians 3:14-18*

ENTRANCE RITE

We stand as we are able.

Hymn 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

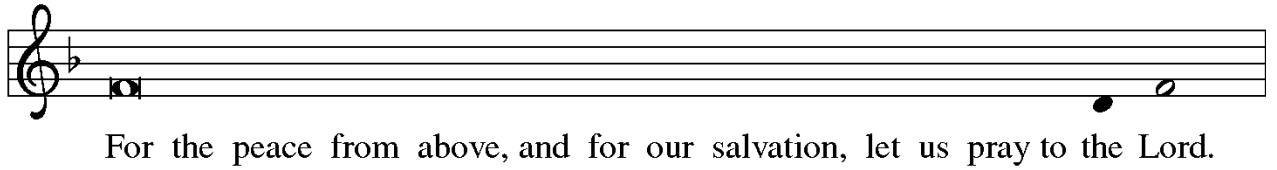
C **And also with you.**

Kyrie is the Greek word for "Lord." The church has prayed this prayer seeking divine help since the 4th century.

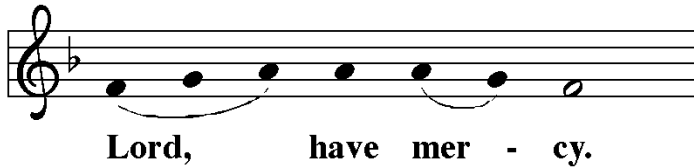
Kyrie



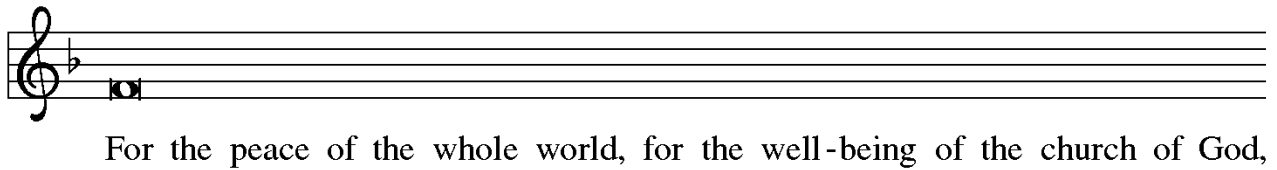
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



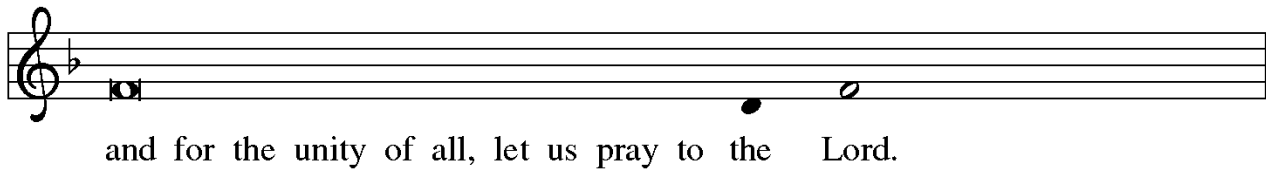
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



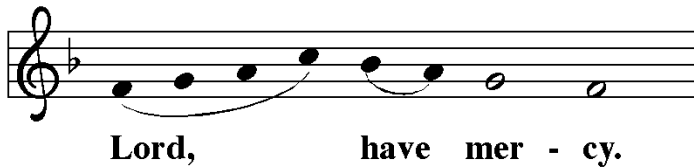
Lord, have mer - cy.



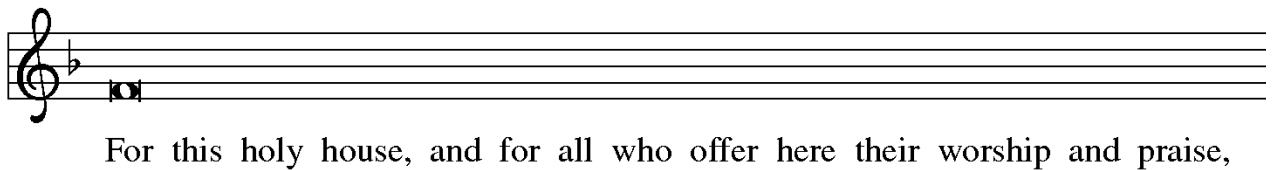
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



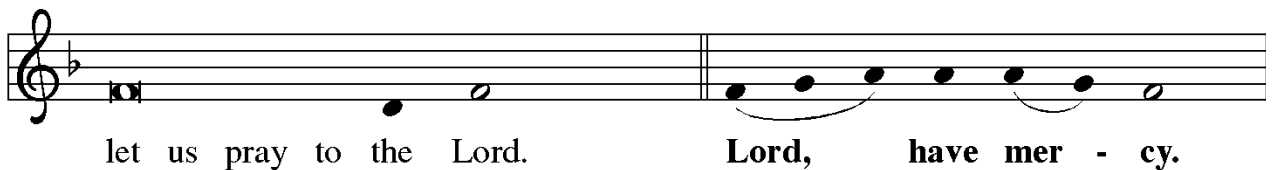
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.

The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.

The first lesson is normally from the Old Testament.

The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

L A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

L A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, a call from the ways un-
 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as - cend to the heights and

- trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late peo - ple the com - ing of their king. Like

val - leys shall be ex - al - ted, the loft - y hills brought low; make
 flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like grass our works de - cay; the

straight all the crook - ed plac - es where God, our God may go!
 pow'r and the pomp of na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

The Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

But the word of our Sav-ior is faith-ful, the arm of our God is strong, who
stands in the midst of the na - tions and soon will right the wrong. Lord,
feed your flock like a shep-herd, the lambs so gent-ly hold; in
pas-tures of peace now lead them, and bring them to your fold.

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn 249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

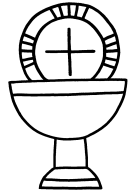
The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another from our pews, saying "Peace be with you."

The Offering

Anthem

Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight his path.

Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low;
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all mankind shall see it, shall see it together.

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way! Make straight his path.

- text from Isaiah 40:4-5

Offertory

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



To us, to all in sor-row and fear, Em - man-u-el comes a - sing - ing,



his hum-ble song is qui-et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring-ing;



mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness,



the thun-der of his an-thems roll to shat-ter all ha-tred and blind-ness

Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord's service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

As our gifts of offerings and

tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God's generous goodness.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,

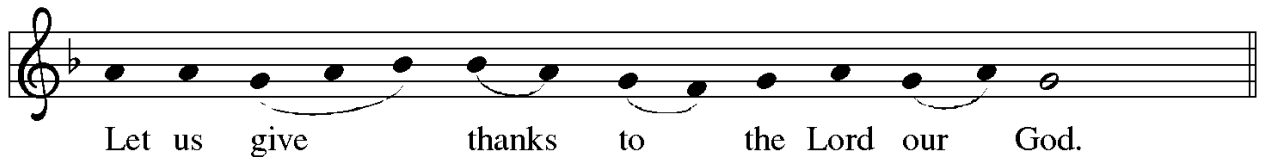
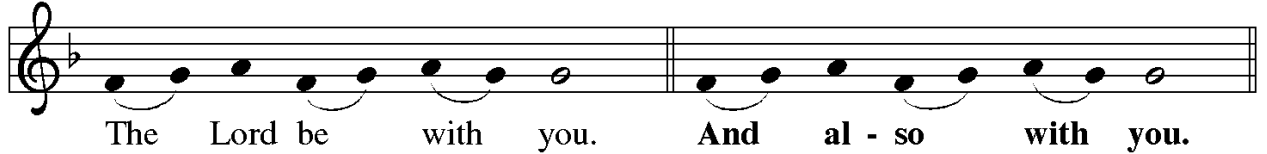
C **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.**

Prepare the way before us

as we meet you in this simple meal,

through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace Amen

Thanksgiving Dialogue



Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

The Proper Preface

The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."

The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.

Sanctus

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

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.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P With this bread and cup
 we remember your Word dwelling among us,
 full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer

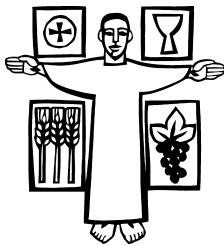
P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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.**

We are seated.



COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle, forming two lines to receive communion in front of the chancel steps. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Most High God,

**C you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen**

We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.

Blessing

P May God, who gathers us in love,
lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.
May God, who fills us with good things,
lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.
The blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you forever.

C Amen

Hymn 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Dismissal

P Go in peace loving the coming Lord and loving your neighbor.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway

arr. Robert Hobby



Ministers and Staff

Ministers: Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Secretary / Financial Administrator: Kathy Bryant
Organist / Choir Director: Jacob Gordon
Pastor: James Armentrout

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