



The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023
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

Valet will ich dir geben

arr. Paul Manz

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

Lighting the Advent Candles

- L Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
- C **Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.**
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.
Amen

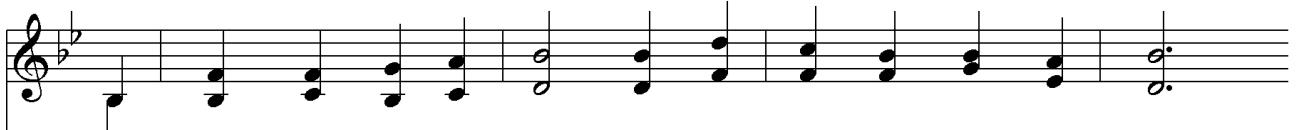
Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18

ENTRANCE RITE

The service continues with the hymn on the next page.



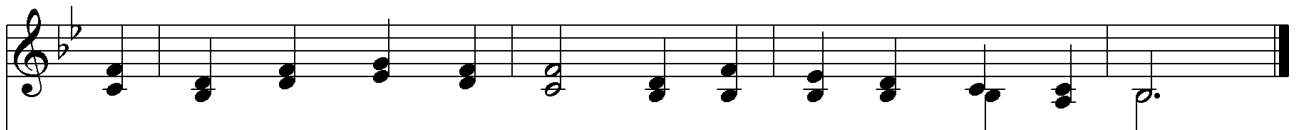
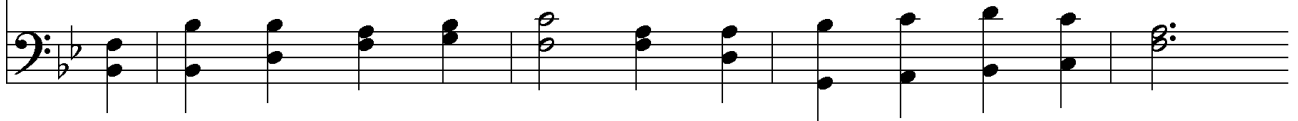
1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2. Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;
3. Love caused your in - car - nat - tion; love brought you down to me.
4. Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
5. He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
 and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
 a light of con - so - la - tions and bless - ed hope to those



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 De - spair not; he is near you, there, stand - ing at the door,
 who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

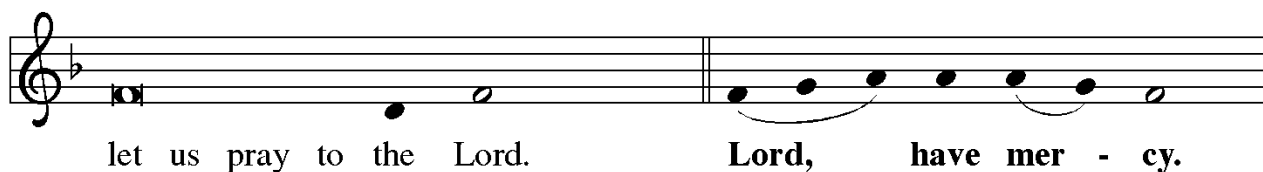
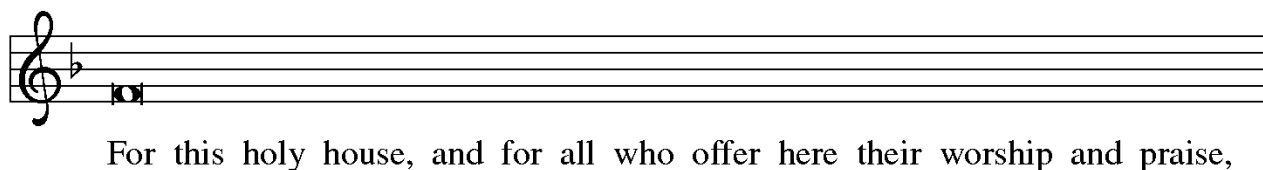
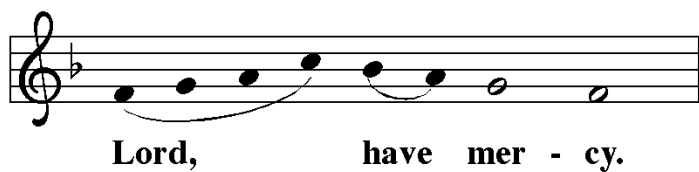
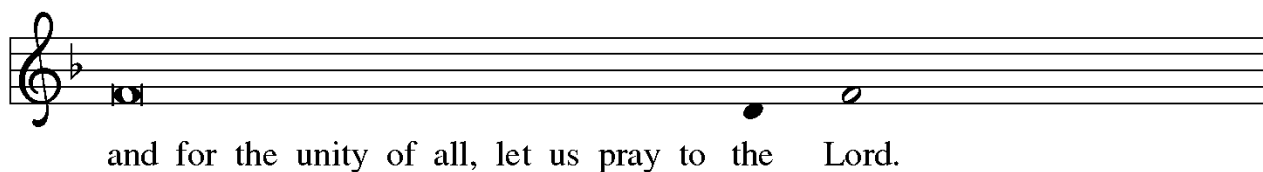
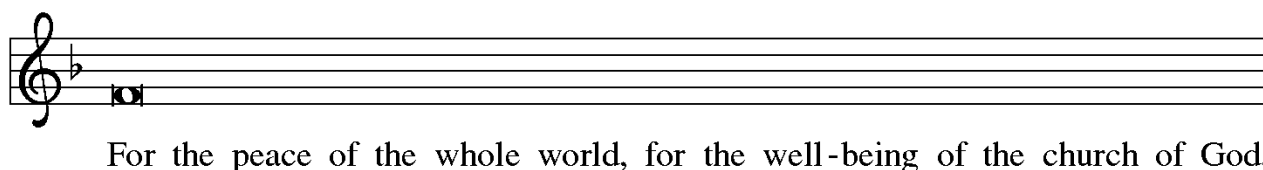
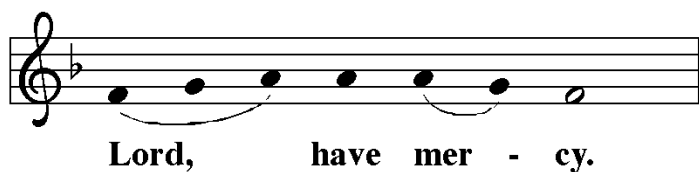
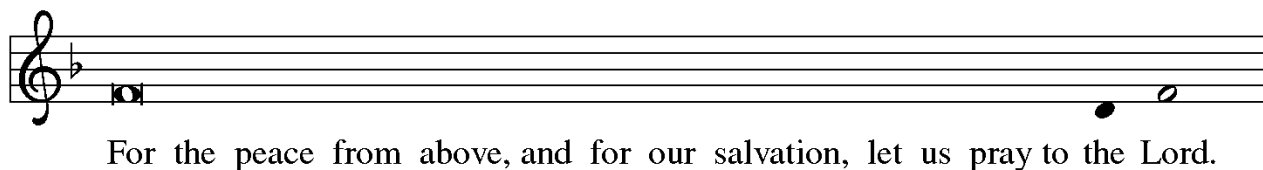


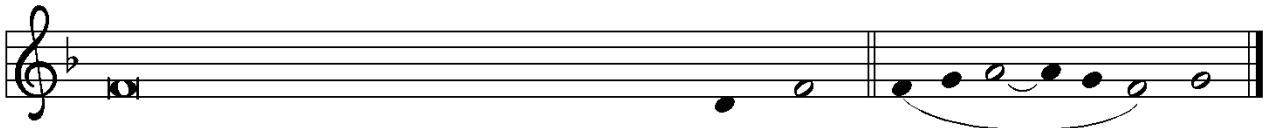
Greeting

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





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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

L A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

L A reading from First Corinthians.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

The sequence hymn frames the reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning



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: Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only

the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning



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 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

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

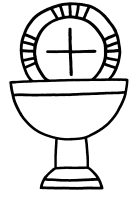


Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



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.

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

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

David Cherwien

O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

O Father, light from heaven lend;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob’s line rain down the King.

O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,
When will sing your morning song?
Come, Son of God! Without your light
We grope in gloom and darkest night.

Sin’s dreadful doom around us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to the promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to you, our Savior King;
There shall we laud you and adore
Forever and forever more.

- text by Friedrich von Spee,
tr. Martin L. Seltz, alt.

Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus born to set thy
peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us
find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of ev - ery
na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

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 dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God our provider,

C **by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen**

Thanksgiving Dialogue

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.

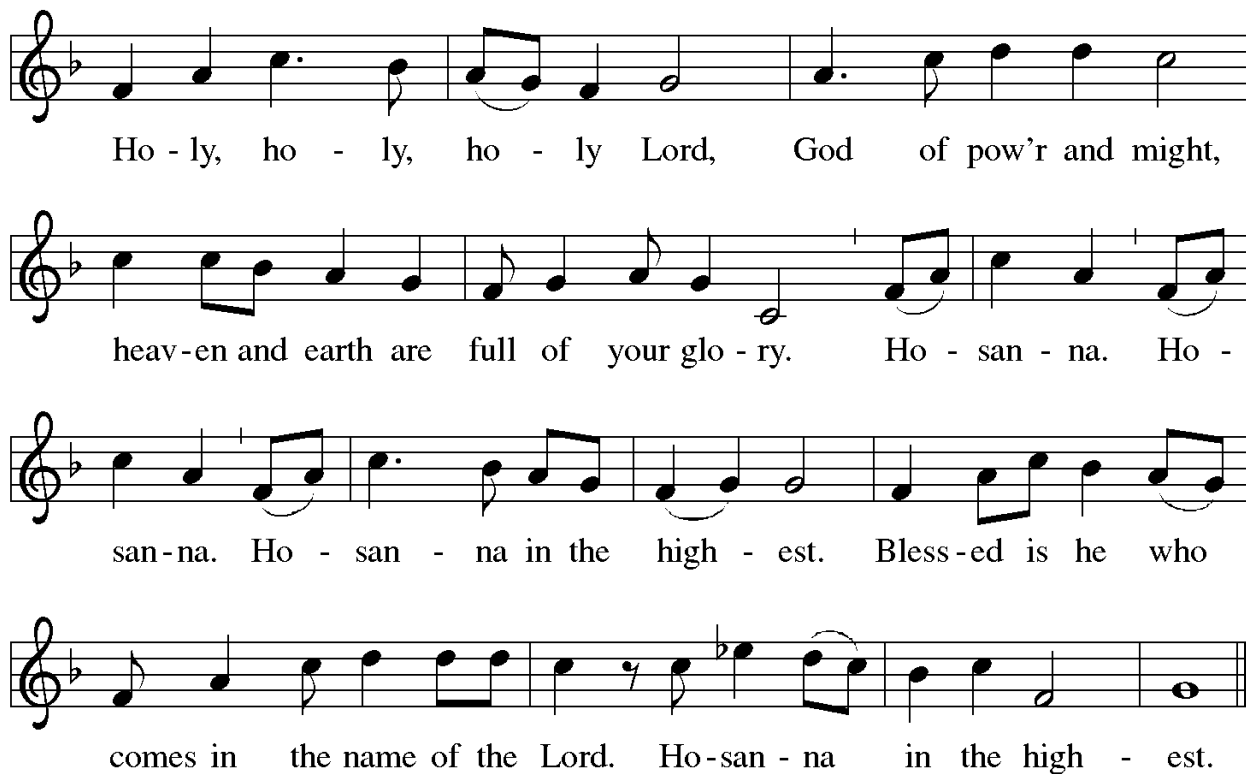
The Proper Preface

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 be-
loved prayer be-
comes the table-
prayer of the con-
gregation. 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 at the altar rail. 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. Generous God,

C in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

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 435

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

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.

Dismissal

P Go in peace loving the coming Lord and loving your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Karl Osterland

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, December 4	11AM	Bible Study
	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, December 5		
Wednesday, December 6	6:30PM	Choir rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, December 7		
Friday, December 8	10AM—noon 6:30PM	The Lion's Share open NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, December 9	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter	Susan Ware	Sandy Anders
Lector	Donna Abbott	Franci Sifers
Communion Assistant	Donna Abbott & Lois Ashby	Sabina Ugochukwu & Nan Keenan
Coffee Hour		

Attendance Last Sunday	63
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$3235.00
Budget (Pledges/Loose)	\$3645.00



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor

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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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You—text: Paul Gerhardt, tr. composite; music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner.

My Lord, What a Morning—text: African-American spiritual; music: BURLEIGH, African-American spiritual.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus—text: Charles Wesley; music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard.