

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024
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 a congregational response.

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

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, you may use the QR code to the right.



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

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 3:14-17

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

Lighting the Advent Candles

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
In your Son, Emmanuel,
you have shown us your light
and saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Four candles are lighted.

C Increase our longing for your presence,
**that at the celebration of your Son's birth
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for he is our light and our salvation.**
Blessed be God forever.
Amen

ENTRANCE RITE

We stand as we are able.

Hymn 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Greeting

A 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.**

The Kyrie eleison (Greek "Lord, have mercy.") is a prayer for divine help prayed by the church since the 4th century.

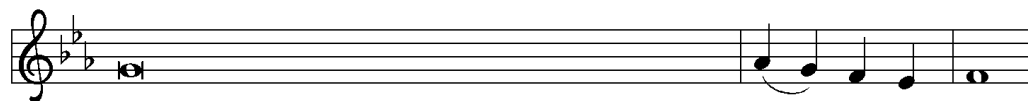
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



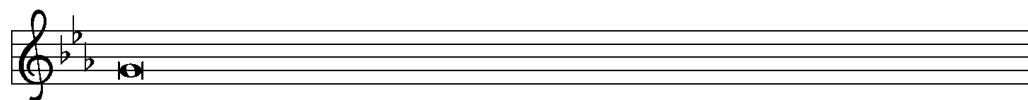
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



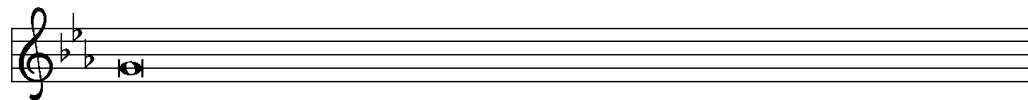
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, 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

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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: Micah 5:2-5a

L A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

L A reading from Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.

We stand.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free
and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
your own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny;
that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here
from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
and give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave.
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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 1:39-45

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

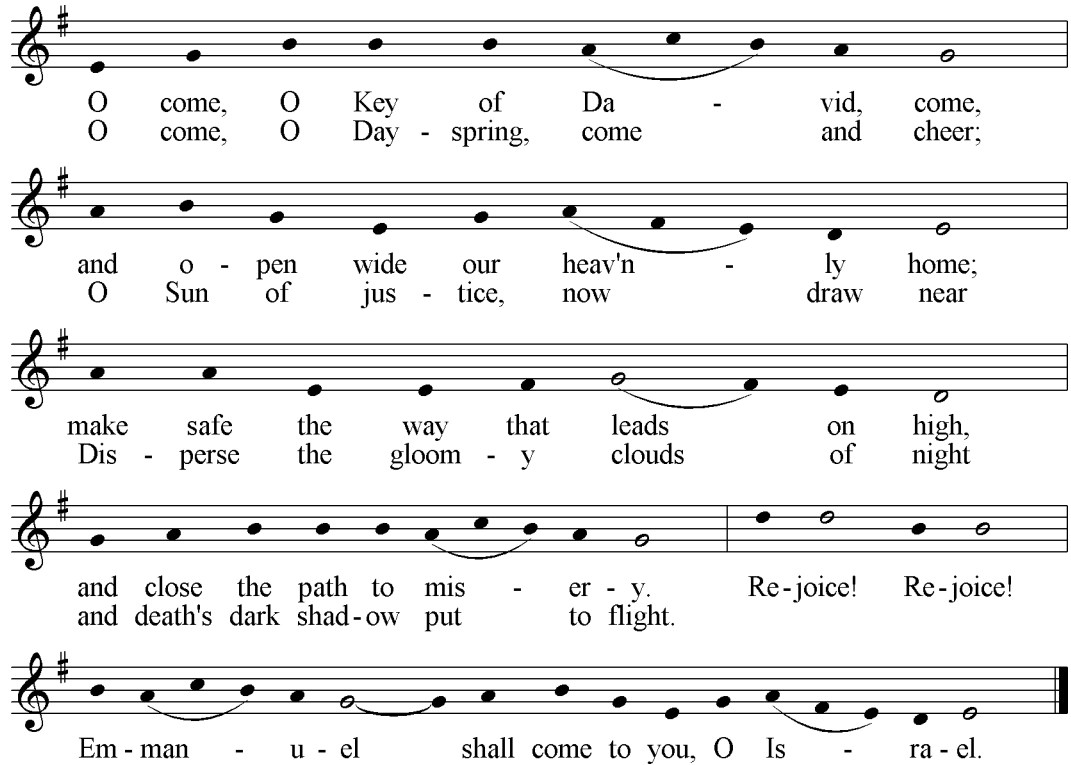
³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



O come, O Key of David, come,
O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer;
and open wide our heav'nly home;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
make safe the way that leads on high,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and close the path to misery. Re-joice! Re-joice!
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn 263

Savior of the Nations, Come

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

The Prayers

Each petition concludes:



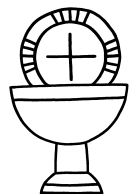
A Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

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 EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**



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

The Offering

Anthem

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

For text, see Hymn 265.

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 min-

istries 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.

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

O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de-vour the small;



guide us to jus-tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self-ish schemes.
as beasts and cat-tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en-vy find re-lease,
Then en-e-mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac-cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Creator God,
C you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 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.

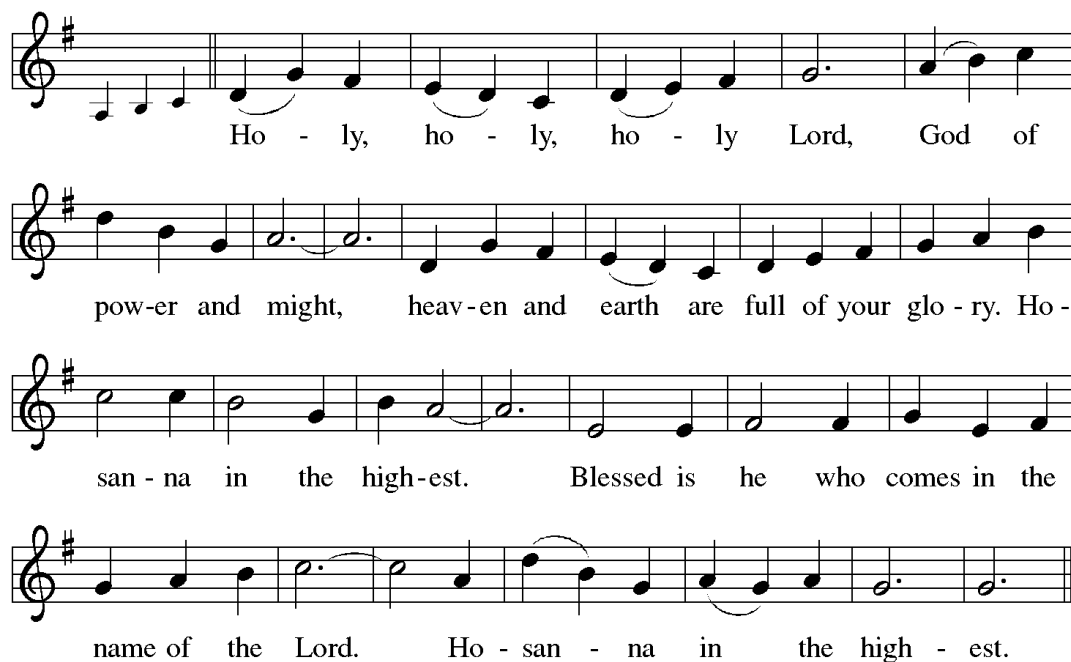
The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

The Proper Preface

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

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

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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:

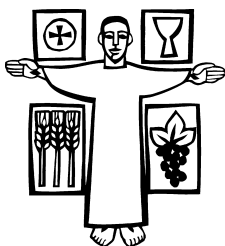
**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.

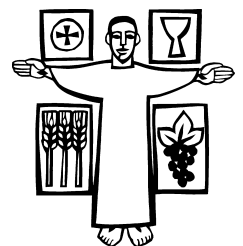
We are seated.



**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 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

A Let us pray. Generous God,

C **we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.**

**We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.**

**We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.**

Amen

Blessing

P May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

C **Amen**

P May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

C **Amen**

P May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

C **Amen**

P And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C **Amen**

Hymn 267

Joy to the World

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

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, December 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	12PM	Christmas Pageant
Monday, December 23	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, December 24 <i>The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve</i>	8PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 25		
Thursday, December 26		
Friday, December 27	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, December 28	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, December 29 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter	Betty Burrows	Joel & Chisom Ugochukwu
Lector	Maryanne Meloy	Jennifer Armentrout
Communion Assistant	Mary Ann Snider	Eric Mills & Teresa Stowasser
Coffee Hour		

Attendance Last Sunday	60
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$1,965
Budget (Pledges/Loose)	\$3531.00



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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