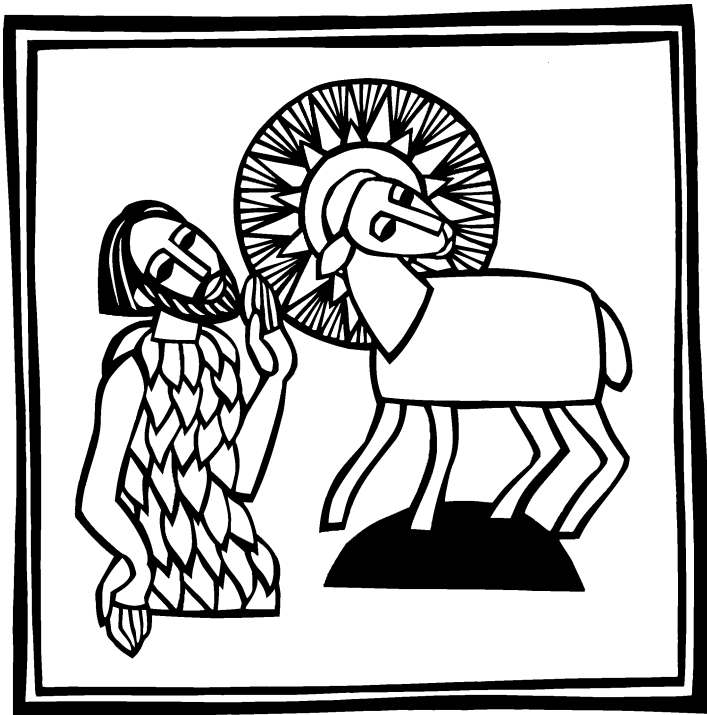


SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17th

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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

St. Mark's Mission: *St. Mark's Lutheran Church exists to embrace all persons we meet with the Good News of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ and to empower all for joyful service in the church and the world.*

Thank you for joining us today in worship, whether you're a life-time member of this congregation or a first-time visitor looking for a new spiritual home.
Communion at St. Mark's is open to all.

About this service: Everything you need for this service is either in the booklet, the insert, or in one of our hymnals:

Worship & Praise Songbook (W&P) - Purple

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) - Red

If you have questions, a member sitting near you will be glad to help.

Please stay after worship to share in refreshments and fellowship in our Gathering Room.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Hannah Benedict

Deacons David Grindle, Tom Henry & Sue Sterner

Youth Coordinator & Office Manager Megan Wolling

Organist Julie Grindle

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9a-12p

Pastor Hannah Benedict

Pastor Benedict will be available by appointment.

Please contact the office or email her at

Rev.StMarks@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

In case of an emergency she can be reached on her cell at

563-213-3204

GATHERING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

We observe a time for reflection as we enter into worship. During the lighting of candles, we sing the song, repeating as many times as indicated by the cantor:

**“Come, light of lights, into my heart.
Come, wisdom of spirit, into my heart.”**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand As You Are Able

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

ELW 242 *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

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... Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

(8am, spoken together; 10:30am, sung)

Psalm 126 (Refrain 1)

William Bradley Roberts



The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad in-deed.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then
they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

Refrain

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out
weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Refrain

READING

Isaiah 9:2-5

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a
land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the
nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the
harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on
the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments
rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(All Sing)

**Oh, come, oh, 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!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

Mark 1: 1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

For Them

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 241 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Come be with us, O God **and restore your people.**

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERING

Anthem – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

OFFERTORY SONG

**O come, O King of nations, come O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you; Restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...**Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...join their unending hymn:

**Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, living and loving God, that you have sent your Son to this world. Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation, our Lawgiver, burning with justice, the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots, the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

We praise you, serving and saving God, that you send your Son also to this table, who on the night before he died 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.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

We beg you, mighty and merciful God: send us the Spirit of your Son. Dwell in this food and in all who share it, that the earth may rejoice in your presence. In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world, reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples, and live among us, Emmanuel, our deepest desire now and forever.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to Christ's communion table at St. Mark's; all are invited to learn more about God's gift of grace through communion, word and baptism.

We receive communion kneeling at the altar, and by intinction – taking the host (bread), and dipping it into the red wine or white grape juice in the chalice (cup). We also have gluten-free wafers upon request. Please approach the table beginning with those in the front pews, from the side aisle, and return via the center aisle.

HYMNS AT COMMUNION

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Stand As You Are Able

Let us pray... **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 246 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Bells

+++++

Altar Flowers are given in memory of our father Albert Olson
by Kathy & Andy Olson.

THIS WEEK:

TODAY

- 8a** Worship
- 9a** Youth Tree Cutting
- 9:15a** Faith Formation
- 10:30a** Worship
- 11:30a** Greening of the Church
- 5p** Evening Worship
- Tuesday**
- 11a** Bible Study
- Wednesday**
- 6p** Faith Story Theater Classes
- 7p** Choir
- NO Bells

Thursday

4:30p Community Dinner

Sunday

Christmas Eve

9:30a Worship - 4th Sunday in Advent

6p Family Worship

9p Contemplative Worship

Monday

Christmas Day

Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARK'S

One in the Spirit Sundays:

Sunday, December 24th - Advent 4 @ 9:30a

Sunday, December 31st - Lessons & Carols @ 9:30a

- **Food of the Month:** December's Food of the Month will be Pasta & Rice.
- **ELCA Good Gifts Tree:** Looking for an alternate gift idea this season? Want to support a great cause? Purchase an animal (pig, goat, etc) or water or agricultural items that will benefit people in need around the world. Take home a catalog or ornament to give to a friend.
- **Home Made Goods Sale:** The Youth are selling homemade goods to raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering. Pick up a present for yourself or a friend.
- **Winter Coat Drive:** Bring in a gently used or new coat to be donated to PEACE in Baldwinsville or Interfaith Works. Last day for donations is Wednesday morning.
- **Christmas Poinsettias:** Order a plant in honor of a loved one for Christmas Eve. Choice of White or Red, \$8 each, today is the last day to sign up!
- **Save the Date:** Adult Night Out - Friday, January 12th at Muddy Waters & B'ville Theater's Hunchback of Notre Dame - Friday, January 26th.

Greening of the Church

Today following 10:30a service

Join us as we put up the tree, decorate the church for the season of Christmas & enjoy cookies & cocoa.

Join our family for the celebration
of the birth of our Savior.

Sunday, December 24th

Family Service
@ 6:00p

Contemplative Service
with Classical Guitar
@ 9:00p



SERVANTS:

JAN & FEB SERVANTS: Available for Sign Up!

ASSIGN ME: *We are doing a new list for 2017-2018.*

Please sign up if you would like to be assigned!

8 AM	DEC 17	DEC 24	DEC 31
Greeter & Usher(s)	Pam & Terry Dilg	ONE IN THE SPIRIT SUNDAY @ 9:30a <i>Separate Evening Worship Sign Ups</i>	ONE IN THE SPIRIT SUNDAY @ 9:30a
Comm. Asst.	Judy Earle		
Lector	Mike Arendt		
Acolyte	Trevor & Alex		
Coffee Hour	Bernice Scherfling		
10:30 AM			
Greeter & Usher(s)	1 - Lori Honan 2 -	1 - 2 -	1 - 2 -
Asst. Minister	Andy Olson	Tom Grindle	
Acolyte	Nate & Hailey		
Lector	Andy Olson	Tom Grindle	Multiple Readers
Counters	Lori Honan Andy Olson	Terry Dilg Mark Hopkins	The Earles Lorna Dupre
Nursery	1 - 2 -	No Nursery	No Nursery
Coffee Hour	Greening Event	Sally Frenza	Karol Wright
Altar Care	The Earles	The Earles	The Earles

Servants are needed for Christmas Eve!

If you are interested in serving please sign up today.

	6 PM	9 PM
Greeter & Usher(s)	The Hays-Peterson Family The Burke-Keenan Family	1 - 2 -
Comm. Asst / Asst. Minister	1 - Sean Becker 2 - Greg Lamb 3 -	Denise Ballou
Candle Lighter		
Acolyte	Rachel Becker	
Lector		Mark Anderson

If you would like to help with coffee hour during our Christmas Eve services, see the blue sign-up sheet!

2018 Offering Envelopes are now available for pick up!