

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

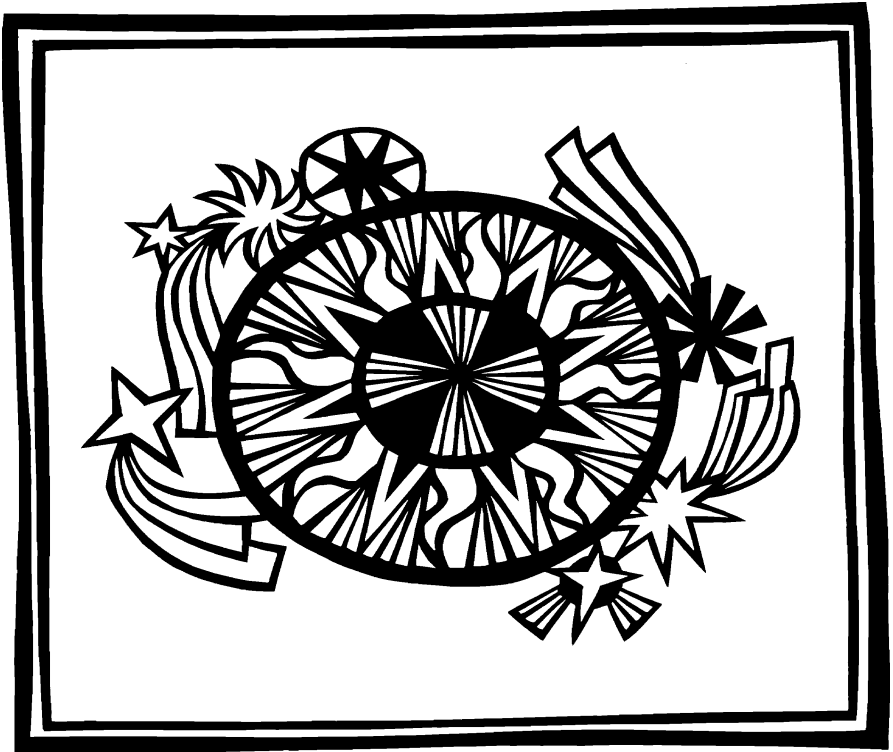
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: [www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

E-mail: [stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com)

MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



2nd Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

**Please silence all electronic devices.**

**WELCOME!** Please sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

**PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

## **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Carol Medley*

*Coventry Carol — O Sanctissimo — O Come Little Children*

**HYMN** *Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light*  
Organ Only — No Singing

### *Stand* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of goodness and loving kindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**C Amen.**

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**C Amen.**

### **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**

Spoken **Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;**

**we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we  
raise.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**—Let us pray. . .

**A** Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **WORD**

**Sit First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

**READ IN UNISON**

**Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.  
God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

**God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.**

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.**

**Who can stand against God's cold?**

**The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.**

**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

**The Lord has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things

according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Stand Spoken**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are  
stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

The Holy Gospel according to St John the 1st Chapter

**C Glory to you O Lord**

**Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Sit **HYMN** *God, Whose Almighty Word*

*Organ Only*

### **Nicene Creed**

**C We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver  
of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

**A** Hear us O God,

**C** **Your mercy is great,**

**A** God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace  
as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of  
Jesus.

**C** **Amen**

### **PEACE**

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word  
and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and  
mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose  
Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now  
prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each  
other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness,  
please practice a “non-contract” sharing of the Peace until  
further notice.**

**P** Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you  
were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that  
comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful.  
(Colossians 3:15)

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

### **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
C Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

## SENDING

## BLESSING

P Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.  
C Amen.

sit **HYMN** *This Little Light of Mine*  
Organ Only

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

**Please do not leave your bulletin in the pews, dispose of them in the Narthex in recycling can.**

## **POSTLUDE**    *We Three Kings*

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If you are already enrolled consider increasing the amount at this time. Forms are available in the narthex and on bulletin boards, or ask at the office.

**ONLINE GIVING** - is also available on our website, [stmarksharrisburg.org](http://stmarksharrisburg.org). Click the GIVE tab and follow the instructions. **ON LINE GIVING IS SEPARATE FROM SIMPLY GIVING.** If you use both you will be giving twice. Changes to **SIMPLY GIVING** must, for the time being, be made by paper form only. Thanks for your generous stewardship.

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$237,992

Payments made thru November 30: \$249,907

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

**READINGS for January 10, 2021:**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

**ATTENTION:** So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if you have changes to your name, address phone number and your email address changed, you can call or send your updated information to church office.

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTORS -

FLOWER DELIVERY -

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

**Altar Flowers** No flowers until church opens back up.

**ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS** - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

## Birthdays for January

01/02 – Phyllis Mengel  
01/03 – Roberta Wege  
01/03 – Troy Spencer  
01/04 – Hailey Neidig  
01/04 – Alice Graham  
01/05 – Kenny Baranowski  
01/06 – Elizabeth Baranowski  
01/07 – Courtney Miller  
01/08 – Andrew Simpler  
01/09 – Samuel Flook  
01/09 – Chaz Evans  
01/12 – Marcia Forlizzi  
01/13 – Fritz Ulrich  
01/13 – Clay Spencer  
01/13 – Brent Spencer  
01/14 – Shyese Brown  
01/15 - Deb Banks  
01/15 – Jeffery Weldon  
01/15 – Christina Dinger  
01/21 – Susanne Smithers  
01/22 – Teaghan Davis  
01/27 – Rebekah Hengst  
01/28 – Bonita Lengel