

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

**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 enjoy the opportunity to observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come*

## **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Voluntary for Advent*  
*by L. Roques*

**HYMN #242** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*  
Organ Only — No Singing

### *Stand* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVE**

**P** Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love  
endures forever.

**Amen**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Loving and forgiving God,  
**C** we confess that we are held captive by sin.  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have  
not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.  
Restore us, O God.  
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.  
Renew us each day in the light of Christ.  
C Amen.**

**P** People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
+ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**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 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.

**Amen.**

### **WORD**

Sit **First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as 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!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From 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.

You 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.  
We 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.  
There 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.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.  
A The Word of the Lord  
**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**Read In Unison**

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts;**

**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

**And so will we never turn away from you;**

**give us life, that we may call upon your name.**

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;**

**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

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

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

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 Mark 13:24-37

C Glory to you O Lord

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then 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.

“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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It 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.

Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Sit **HYMN# 244** *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

Organ Only

### 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**

### **The Prayers**

A Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**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.

**C And also with you.**

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of all goodness,

**C generations have turned to you,  
gathered around your table,  
and shared your abundant blessings.**

**Number us among them**

**that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
we may feast upon your very self  
and care for all that you have made,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.**

**C Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you,

**C And also with you**

P Lift up your hearts

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise**

### PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven  
and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the  
highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' feet

### **Spoken Lamb Of God**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have  
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Sit **Communion Distribution**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.**

A Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
+ now and forever.  
Amen

Sit **HYMN #250** *Blessed Be the God of Israel*  
Organ Only

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

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 *Hark! the Glad Sound*

**T. Haweis**

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Operating Receipts thru October 31: \$217,585

Payments made thru October 31: \$229,092

Attendance: 11/22/2020 56

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

## **Readings for December 6, 2020:**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:11-11

**Psalm:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

**GIFT CARD DONATIONS:** The Social Services Ministry is asking for donations of gift cards for (2) families for Christmas.

Family (1): Gift cards from Game Stop, WalMart, Target, Amazon, Ebay, and Dunkin' Donuts.

Family (2): Gift Cards from Game Stop, Dunkin Donuts, Amazon, Target, Wal Mart, and Boscov's.

We will also accept gift cards from Giant or Weis Markets to help with food. All donations should be placed in an envelope with Patty Kingsbury's name on it and turned into the office no later than Tuesday December 15. If you have any questions please contact Molly Stanton.

## **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 - Bill Shook; Judy Horton

FLOWER DELIVERY - Marian Person

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

**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.

## Birthdays for November

11/03– Maryann Gelehrter

11/03 –Elliot Walak

(Willis)

11/03- James Person

11/04 - Hailey Neidig

11/04- Susan Shultz

11/07- George Kaufman

11/08- Thomas Stohler

11/09– Vaughn Heym, Jr

11/10 – Samantha Romanias

11/10 – Brent Whitaker

11/14 – Richard Botts

11/14 – Susan Dillahey

11/16– Julia Zingone

11/17– Floyd Sholder

11/18 – Gary Schwartz

11/20 – Sandy Dinger

11/22 - Heidi May

11/23– Rick Beckley

11/24 –Christine Wnuk

11/24– Tracey Swetnam

11/27 – Donald Gutshall

11/27– Isaiah Allen

11/28—Ryan Cleaver



# UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



**2020 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - ~~Canceled~~**

**Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald - [Register Now!](#)**

**Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa - [Register Now!](#)**

*\*\* Masks & social distancing required at all LCC events \*\**

**Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 5, 2020**

- Join us as we guide you in contemplative, hope-filled watching and waiting for the birth of the Christchild. \$15.00 per person includes lunch.

**Advent/Christmas in the Barn at the Wittel Farm - December 20 7:00-8:30pm**

## **SUPPORT THE CAMPS**

Make a gift today to support the ministries of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

**SIMPLY GIVING** – A Simple Choice: A Generous Response & Save Paper. Simply Giving is the program St. Mark's uses to enable electronic transfer for church donations. Most people use similar methods to make recurring payments for utilities, mortgages, etc. Why not save paper and make it easier for yourself, and the Counters here at St Mark's. Sign up and support our programs with regular donations that are safe, reliable, and conserve paper resources.

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.

**Altar Flowers** are presented to the Glory of God.

**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.

Change of address: Christina Dinger  
6255 Billingsgate Ct.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Loraine Mariner  
116 Beacon Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Avril Toppin  
725 Wilhelm Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Larry & Carol Watkins  
603 Cat Tail Court  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird  
Sanctuary