

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 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

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

HYMN #288 *Good Christmas Friends, Rejoice*
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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who was in the beginning,

who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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. Amen.**

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 wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 148

Read in Unison

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.**

**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.**

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

**Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

**mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;**

young men and maidens,
old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth
and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise
for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the Lord. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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 Luke the 2nd Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord
C **Praise to you O Christ**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit **HYMN** *The Friendly Beasts*
Organ Only

Stand **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and**

**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 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 Generous God,

C you have created all that is,

and you provide for us in every season.

Bless all that we offer,

that through our gifts the world will receive your blessing.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.
C Amen.

Sit **HYMN #290** *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*
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 Herald Angels Sing*

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Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$237,992

Payments made thru November 30: \$249,907

Attendance:

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

READINGS for January 3, 2021:

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 47:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

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

Did you miss the Bunny Breakfast this year??

Well you're in luck the Bunny called Santa to let
you all know that

St. Mark's Nursery School has 6 DISNEY Tickets!

The tickets are good until June of 2021 and
available on first come basis

\$75 a ticket and all the proceeds go towards St.

Mark's Nursery School

Call our Director Pam Baranowski at 717-652-6700

Ext. 3

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. 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.

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.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

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.

Birthdays for December

12/01–Taylor Trout
12/02 -Jonnie Deibler
12/04- Susan Seitz
12/06– Dolores Magaro
12/06– Caroline Gill
12/07– Michael Nusz
12/09– Ryan Shadle
12/10– Mary Ann Kane
12/10– Doreen Steinmacher
12/11 – Adam Appleby
12/11– Jacob McClenahen
12/12 Alexis Ulrich
12/13– Vaughn Heym
12/14– Pat Ashbrook
12/15– Mercedes Bretz
12/16– Brandon Dinger
12/16- Harold Sultzaberger
12/18- Emma Betz
12/18 Sue Senft
12/19— Clint Harr
12/19– Linda Gingell
12/19– James Miller
12/20– Michael Betz
12/20– Colin McClenahen
12/22– Bruce Senft
12/24– Sarah Neidig
12/25– Christine Kroah
12/27– Liz Harris
12/30 Frank Dillahey
12/30—Madison Spencer