

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 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**

*John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace .*

## **GATHERING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*  
by T. Giesher

## **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

*Light one candle for hope  
One bright candle for hope  
He brings hope to every heart  
He comes! He comes!!*

**HYMN #249** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*  
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 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.**

**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.

**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

## Kyrie

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

## Prayer of the Day- Let us pray...

Let us pray...Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## WORD

Sit **First Reading:**    **Isaiah 40:1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades; when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings ; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his

reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his and flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

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

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

### READ IN UNISON

**You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

**I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those  
who turn their hearts to you.**

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

**Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

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

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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 Mark the 1st Chapter  
C Glory to you O Lord

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Sit HYMN #255 *There's A Voice in the Wilderness*  
*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.**

## **The Prayers**

**A** Hear us, O God.

**C** Your mercy is great.

**A** God of power and might, comfort your people  
and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our  
prayers for everyone in need.

**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 Generous God,

C **you have created all that is,**

**and you provide for us in every season.**

**Bless all that we offer**

**that through these gifts the world will receive  
your blessing.**

**In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray ,**

C **Amen**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you,

**C And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**C 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**

**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.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna  
in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and  
ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour  
out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and  
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink

## 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**

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 #266 *All the Earth is Hopeful***  
**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** *The King Shall Come*  
by A. Davidson

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

Operating Receipts thru October 31: \$217,585

Payments made thru October 31: \$229,092

Attendance: 11/29, 2020 50

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

**Readings for December 13, 2020:**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: 126

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **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 McClenahan  
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 McCleenahan  
12/22– Bruce Senft  
12/24– Sarah Neidig  
12/25– Christine Kroah  
12/27– Liz Harris  
12/30 Frank Dillahey  
12/30 —Madison Spencer



## **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 - Jay Snyder; David Featherman

FLOWER DELIVERY - Lucy Weaver

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.

**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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUPPORT THE CAMPS

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

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

Men in Mission are donating 10 wreaths to be  
placed at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery  
December 19, 2020

**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, Wal Mart, 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.