

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's

Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Two

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe". Feel free to bring it to your pew.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table where there are weekly activity bulletins. Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15am.

As always, the link to our live/recorded YouTube channel is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org

PRELUDE

Instrumental

OPENING MUSIC "It Is Well with My Soul"

Please Stand

Masked singing encouraged

music by Philip P. Bliss, lyrics by Horatio Spafford

1. When peace like a ri - ver, at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like

4. And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

6
sea bil - lows roll; What - e - ver my lot, Thou hast taught me to

back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall des -

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, with the first line starting at measure 1 and the second line starting at measure 4. The second system starts at measure 6 and contains the final two lines of the hymn. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

Continued...

11
say, It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well
cend, "E - ven so," it is well with my soul. It is
16
well with my soul, with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west to east at the Word of the Holy One.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the second candle of this wreath –
the candle of peace.
Wake us from our sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when God comes
and help us welcome God into our hearts and homes,
for Christ is our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Deacon: Let us pray. Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON:

Please be seated

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills
be made low

Continued...

and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Baruch 5:1-9

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,**
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Luke 1: 68-79

THE SECOND LESSON:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:3-11

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion *music by The Svenska Psalmboken, lyrics by Frans Mikael Franzen*

1 Pre- pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a -
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em-

4 near! Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap -
above. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and
brace, and tidings of sal - va - tion proclaim in ev - ery

8 pear. Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore -
love. Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for
place. All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Luke 3: 1-6

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God above us,

Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

**We believe in Christ beside us, companion and friend,
redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.**

**We believe in Spirit deep
within us, Advocate and
guide, who lives with us eternally.**

**We believe in God's resurrection created world
where all things are fixed,
and all creation fits together
in vibrant harmonies.**

**We believe in God above, beside, within,
God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three.**

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Please be seated

You're invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on the Prayer Board during the music. Please stay socially distant.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle. We pray today for.....

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illuminating all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You a place.

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

Closing Collect: Emmanuel, You show us the face of the Divine, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Offerings and elements are brought forward to the altar.

Eucharistic ministers gather at the altar.

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

As a parent tenderly gathers their children, you embraced a people as your own to rear them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister.

Jesus revealed your care for all you have made, and showed us your way of reconciliation. Looking forward to the joy of new life Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family.

You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us, your church. Your Spirit stays to nurture and to guide us.

Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we hymn your praise for your unending love, as we sing,

Holy, holy, holy, holy

Holy Lord God of hosts

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord, of the lord

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

**This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you;
do this as often as you drink it to remember me.**

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.

Anoint us with your life-giving power that we might recognize your presence in each and every person.

By Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray (sing),

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on, earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation.

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

All are welcome to receive communion.

Please be seated. Our Eucharistic Ministers will come to you. As they approach, please stand if you are able. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms in front of you.

COMMUNION HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

music and lyrics by Sebastian Temple

Verses 1, 2, 4



1. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
2. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where
4. Make me a chan - nel of your peace. It



there is ha - tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, And
there is dark - ness, on - ly light, And
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Verse 3



3. Oh, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek So much to be con -



soled as to con - sole. To be un - der - stood as to un - der -



stand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tend to your spirit and our city.

Thanks be to God.

SMSJ WEEKLY CALENDAR (December 6, 2021 - December 12, 2021)

Tuesday

9am - 9:30am Food Shelf Prep & Foodlink Delivery
(Kimbrough and Rogers)
1pm Food bagging *(Finn and Casper)*

Wednesday

9:30am Blue Christmas Healing Service
10:30-12pm Food Shelf Ministry *(Kowalski and Forszt)*
7:30pm Nazareth Brass Choir

Thursday

9:30am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Bible Study-The Book of Acts
Zoom link will be available on the website

Friday *Pastor Cindy's day off*

Advent Word

In addition to our Advent Sunday Services, we are participating in a daily advent word activity through Forward Movement. Each day of advent is assigned a word for reflection which can be found at AdventWord.org, posted in the sanctuary, or received via direct email from Forward Movement. Participants are encouraged to post photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, and Holy Spirit-filled posts to their social media with the tag #AdventWord. Gathering a worldwide community, #AdventWord provides a daily meditation, visual image, and invites your personal reflections via social media to share your own Advent journey.

Blue Christmas Healing Service

Join us the morning of Wednesday, December 8th at 9:30am for a Christmas service dedicated to family and friends that are no longer with us. This service will take place in the sanctuary and be broadcasted on our livestream for those who are unable to attend in person.

Nazareth Brass Choir Concert

Nazareth College's eleven-piece student brass choir will perform a free holiday concert at 7:30pm in the St. Mark's and St. John's Sanctuary.

Flower Offerings

Honor a loved one by making a flower offering for the holiday season. Flower offerings go to purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary. Flower offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary.

Bible Study

Continuing this Thursday, **December 9th**, Rev' Cindy is leading a weekly Bible Study at 7:00pm and participants will be able to attend online. We are studying the Book of Acts! The Zoom link is posted on the website.

Next Vestry Meeting

Our next vestry meeting will be in-person on Monday, December 13th at 6pm. Please check the Vestry Google folder before the meeting.

2022 Nominations Open

The following positions are open for nominations from Sunday, November 28th to Sunday, January 2nd:

- 1 Co-Warden, 2-year term
- 1 Vestry, 2-year term
- 2 Vestry, 3-year term
- 1 Delegate to Convention, 3-year term
- 1 Alternate Delegate to Convention, 1-year term

Nomination forms are available on the table near the coffee station. Terri Censak is this year's chair.

Prayer Concerns and/or Thanksgivings

Our newsprint "Prayer" board is back. You are welcome to light a candle and put the name(s) of those you would like us to hold in prayer. First names will be shared during the Prayers of the People. If you would like to include any of these names on our regular prayer list, please email Terri Censak at scensak@frontiernet.net.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

If you'd like to serve as a Reader and/or a Eucharistic Minister, please let Deacon Mike or Pastor Cindy know. The November and December schedule is attached. If you are unable to serve a particular weekend, please find a replacement and let Pastor Cindy know.

Worship Leaders for December of 2021 and January of 2022

Date	First Lesson and Psalm	Second Lesson	Prayers of the People	Hold Cup Tray	Give Single Cup	Collect Cups
12/5	Bob C	Terri C	LaVonne N	Sharon K	Joe C	Char K
12/12	Mary E	Stephanie S	Tom F	Terri C	Mary E	Children
12/19	Mary Ellen F	Sharon K	Heather G	LaVonne N	Tom F	Stephanie S
12/24	Walt S	Samantha G	Paula V	Mary Ellen F	Deb S	Heather G
12/26	Bob V	Michele H	Kathy J	Walt S	Samantha G	Paula V
1/2	Joe C	Bob C	Deb S	Michele H	Nancy W	Dorothy B
1/9	LaVonne N	Kathy J	Terri C	Bob C	Dorothy B	Children
1/16	Tom F	Mary E	Stephanie S	Char K	Sharon K	Joe C
1/23	Heather G	Mary Ellen F	Sharon K	Mary E	Terri C	April L
1/30	Paula V	Walt S	Samantha G	Stephanie S	LaVonne N	Tom F
2/6	Kathy J	Bob V	Michele H	Heather G	Mary Ellen F	Deb S
2/13	Bob C	Deb S	Joe C	Dorothy B	Kathy J	Bob C