

The First Sunday of Advent



November 30, 2025

9:30 a.m.

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

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

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:30 am. The link to our YouTube channel is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

We do not pass an offering plate during the service. If you would like to make a financial gift, you can place it in the plate (by the sign-in binder) or contribute online.

Prelude

OPENING SENTENCE

Please stand

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

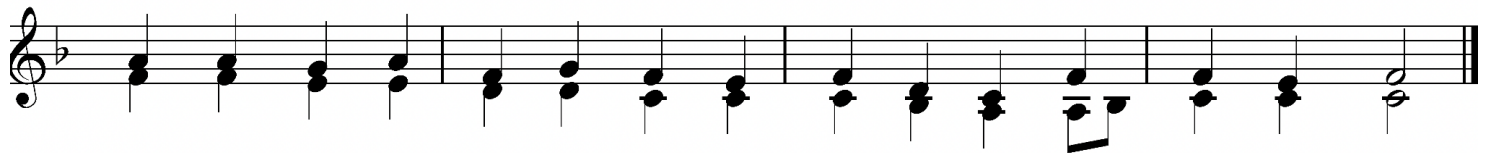
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1982 Hymnal, 66



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*The candle lit on the First Sunday in Advent symbolizes **Hope**.*

CANDLE LIGHTING CHORAL MUSIC

“Freedom is Coming”

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the Books of Isaiah, the second chapter...

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning

hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me, *

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Now our feet are standing *

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *

that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up,

the tribes of the Lord, *

the assembly of Israel,

to praise the Name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgment, *

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

“May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *

and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions’ sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, the thirteenth chapter...

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ADVENT HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1982 Hymnal, 56



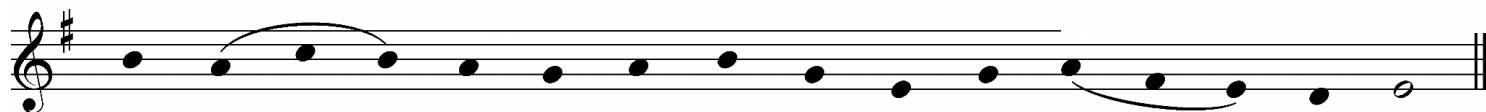
O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest



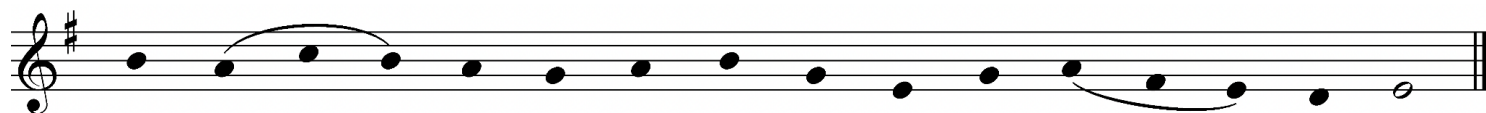
1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NICENE CREED

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

You are warmly invited to light a candle at our prayer table and to write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards. These names and intentions will be included in the Prayers of the People. Once you are at your pew, feel free to remain seated or use a kneeler for meditation.

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 hope

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 your love. Forgive us those things that distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into your embrace.

God of hope

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 hope

Hear our prayer

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

God of mercy

Hear our prayer

Celebrant: Gracious God, 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 continue to become more of who and whose we are. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

After the Passing of the Peace

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

OFFERTORY

“People of God”

*Eucharistic Ministers bring the Communion elements
and Offering to the altar.*

Voices Found, 109

1 Peo - ple of God, ga - ther to - ge - ther, come, let us
sing on this glo - rious day. Shout-ing a - broad

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, and the second staff covers the second line. The notes are mostly quarter and half notes, with some rests.

praise to the Mak-er, come and with bo - dy and soul let us pray.

Refrain

Come, let us join in the hea - ven - ly dance,

prais - ing in joy - ous ce - le - bra - tion.

ADVENT MUSIC

"People Look East"

Voices Found, 34

1 Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the

crown-ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look

East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim

the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant

that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.**

**May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.**

**Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.**

**Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. 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.

*Eucharistic Ministers: The feast of life has been prepared for you -
partake and be filled with the goodness of God.*

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

ALL are welcome to receive communion.

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.

Pastor Cindy will offer the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Longing for Light"

MHSO, 59



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less, long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see. _____
pow - er to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. _____
bro - ken for o - thers, shared un - til all are fed. _____
shel - ter - ing o - thers, wall made of liv - ing stone. _____
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come. _____

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

"THE BLESSING" (Aotearoa) adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace.
Amen, amen, amen; Amen, amen, amen.

May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations
And your family and your children and their children,
and their children.
Amen, amen, amen; Amen, amen, amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God the Creator, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the light of Advent, preparing our hearts, homes, and world for the gifts of new birth.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

December Celebrations

Birthdays
Magnus R. - Dec. 3
Maria - Dec. 22
Billy B. - Dec. 28
Stephanie S. - Dec. 28

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

December 1-7, 2025

Monday, 12/1	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Tuesday, 12/2	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Wednesday, 12/3	10:30 am-Noon - Food Shelf 3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Thursday, 12/4	3:00-6:00 pm - Seed Sowers & Storytellers
Friday, 12/5	
Saturday, 12/6	
Sunday, 12/7	9:30 am - Advent II - Worship with Eucharist <i>The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Presiding and Preaching</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Advent study, **“Heaven’s Earthly Life: Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent”** is available to pick up at the sign in table! We invite you to journey through Advent together at home with scripture, poetry, and practice as we seek the light around us.

We are still \$15,000 short of our 2026 pledge goal. If you have not considered a pledge to support the mission, ministry, and life of SMSJ in 2026, we invite you to do so! Pledging helps us plan our annual budget, and ensures that we can continue to better our programs, worship, and community connections in the year ahead.

Save the date! Maria’s Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests will be held **Saturday, December 13 at 11 am at Christ Church, Rochester.** A reception will follow after the service. Your prayers and presence are joyfully requested! We are once again accepting donations so we can give Maria a special gift on this occasion. Maria will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time at **St. Mark’s & St. John’s on Sunday, December 14th at our 9:30 am service.**

Our next **Vestry meeting** will be **Sunday, December 21** following worship and Christmas decorating. Please note the change from the fourth Sunday to the third!

Worship Leader Schedule - Lectors

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson	Prayers of the People & Greeter
11/30	Nancy R.	Steve F.	Nancy W.
12/7	Sharon K.	Helena W.	Michele H.
12/14	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.
12/21	Heather G.	Bob C.	Dave E.
12/28	Steve F.	Mary E.	Theresa H.
1/4	Tom F.	Mary Ellen F.	Nancy R.
1/11	Mary Ellen F.	Nancy R.	Bonnie H.
1/18	Nancy W.	Sharon K.	Helena W.
1/25	Michele H.	Joe C.	Deb S.

Worship Leader Schedule - Eucharistic Ministers

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
11/30	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
12/7	Michele H.	Nancy W.	Nancy R.
12/14	Mary Ellen F.	Tom F.	Theresa H.
12/21	Mary E.	Dave E.	Bob C.
12/28	Tom F.	Theresa H.	Mary E.
1/4	Dave E.	Bob C.	Heather G.
1/11	Terri C.	Deb S.	Joe C.
1/18	Michele H.	Sharon K.	Nancy W.
1/25	Nancy R.	Mary Ellen F.	Tom F.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MARK'S & ST. JOHN'S

11/30
12/7
12/14
12/21

9:30 AM

ADVENT WORSHIP
WITH EUCHARIST

DEC
24

7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
WITH EUCHARIST

DEC
25

10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
WITH CAROLS

DEC
28

9:30 AM

CHRISTMAS LESSONS &
CAROLS

1245 Culver Road | Rochester, NY



St. Mark's & St. John's Leadership

Rector

The Rev'd Cindy Rasmussen, Ph.D.
crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Curate

The Rev'd Maria Hartz-Clineburg
mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Deacon

The Rev'd Patti Blaine, M.A., BCC
pblaine@stmarksandstjohns.org

AV Producer

Rob Thornton

Musician

Amelia Yousey

Deacon Emeritus

The Rev'd Mike Finn

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens

Sharon Kowalski ('26)
Nancy Ramsay ('27)

Treasurer

Michele Holmes

Members

Bob Caruso (Clerk)
Dave Everson ('28)
Heather Gilfoy ('27)
Theresa Harte ('26)
Michele Holmes ('28)
Ella Webster ('26)
Nancy Willer ('27)

Diocesan Delegates

Bonnie Hallman-Dye ('28)
Nancy Ramsay ('26)
Ella Webster ('26)

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak