

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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### *Advent Four*

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](http://stmarksandstjohns.org)

### PRELUDE

Instrumental

### OPENING MUSIC "O How God Loves You and Me"

*Please Stand*

*Masked singing encouraged*

*music and lyrics (adapted) by Kurt Kaiser*

O how God loves you and me

O how God loves you and me

Jesus gave his life, what more could he give

*Refrain:*

O how God loves you, O how God loves me

O how God loves you and me

Jesus to Calvary did go

God's love for the worlds to show

What God did there bright hope from despair

*Refrain*

### 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 fourth candle of this wreath -  
the candle of love.  
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: Micah 5:2-5a

*Please be seated*

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF MARY : *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

**The promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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.*

## THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## ADVENT HYMN

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

*music by Charles E. Pettman, lyrics translated by S. Baring Gould*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 9/8. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line of lyrics is "1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, With" and the second line is "4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In". The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

*Continued...*

wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame. "All  
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn. And  
hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Mar - y, Most  
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: "Most  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - ri - a!  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Gló - ri - a!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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.**

*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.*

*A special Welcome to Nick Lord this morning playing percussion.*

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

*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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 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

"Give Thanks"

*music and lyrics by Henry Smith*

Unison

F C/E Dm Am

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give

Bb F/A F Dm Eb

thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give

I Gm/C C7

2 Gm/C C7 Am Dm7 Gm7

Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the

C7 Fmaj7 Dm7 Eb

poor say "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for

1 2  
Gm/C C7 Gm/C C7 F Bb/F F

us. And us. Give thanks!

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 19, 2021 - December 25, 2021)

### **Tuesday**

9am - 9:30am Food Shelf Prep & Foodlink Delivery  
(Finn/Brody)  
1pm Food bagging (Darcy)

### **Wednesday**

10:30-12pm Food Shelf Ministry (Forszt, Gruel, and Kowalski)  
12pm Healing Service

### **Thursday**

9:30am Staff Meeting

### **Friday** *Christmas Eve*

7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Special Music

### **Saturday** *Christmas Day*

10:00am Christmas Day Pajama Service with Special Music

### **Sunday**

9:15am Lessons and Carols

*Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 27 - Friday, Dec. 31. The Food Shelf Ministry will still take place on Wednesday, Dec. 29 from 10:30am - 12pm.*

### **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](http://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.

## **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**

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke will begin in the new year on Thursday, Jan. 20th at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is posted on the website.

## **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](mailto: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 December and January 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 Early 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson and Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<b>Hold Cup Tray</b>	<b>Give Single Cup</b>	<b>Collect Cups</b>
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	Joe C	Sharon K	Children
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
2/20	Bob C	Terri C	LaVonne N	Sharon K	Joe C	Children
2/27	Mary E	Stephanie S	Tom F	Terri C	Mary E	Children