



*God's love, Our service.*

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Sunday, December 24, 2023

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

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#### INTRODUCTION

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The December Noisy Offering collection will go to Project 10- 20 for the homeless, chosen by our 5th/6th grade class.

The flowers today are from Joni & Steve Benz, in remembrance of their Mother's birthdays—Tina Benz & Marian Downing.



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Use this blessing when lighting all four candles.*

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,  
sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,  
so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us,  
more radiant than these candles,  
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,  
and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel,  
your promised child and our Savior.

**Amen.**

## ADVENT WREATH HYMN ELW 257, vs. 1-4

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

#### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

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## PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 263, vs. 1-3

### Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:  
God has chosen such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
but the mystic Breath of God,  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—  
from his throne, a virgin mild!  
Very God, and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther,  
1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
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### Greeting page 98

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### KYRIE Pg. 98

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

### **Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55**

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,**  
**from generation to generation.**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** page 102

*Holy Gospel, according to John, the 1st Chapter.*

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be

afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The an-



gel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON** Pastor Kris Dietzen

### **SERMON** Pastor Kris Dietzen

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 248

#### **People, Look East**

- 1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow’r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev’ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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## APOSTLES CREED

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

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.

## Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become

idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill (***especially***). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy (***especially***). Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

**And also with you**

Let us share God's peace with one another.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .....

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,



we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, Holy** pg. 108

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.



## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG** pg. 112

**COMMUNION HYMN** ELW 295

### **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;

now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.

- 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr.  
composite

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

As we depart your house Eternal God, your love is steadfast.  
A sure guardian, a rock of defense and comfort to all.  
Grant us courage to face the future and to share your message;  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 267, vs. 1 & 2

### Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

### **St. Mark's members:**

Beverly Norager,  
Henry Moore,  
Janet Nichols,  
Sheila Mutschelknaus,  
Barbara Strampe,  
Ruth Ann Hackler,  
Chuck Vandenberg,  
Susan & Bill Roberts,  
George McElroy,  
Janet Schmidt,  
Phyllis Dettmer,

### **Family & friends:**

Tami Beck, friend of Joni Benz,  
Steve Wells, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Family of Beverly Norager,  
Sheryl Thompson, family of Linda & Pete Cagle's son,  
Doris Holger, Aunt of Linda Cagle,  
Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,  
Family of Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's  
sister-in-law,  
Sydney, daughter of Tom & Nancy Bryer,  
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Deb & family, sister of Nancy Bryer,  
Timothy Anderson, son of Don & Janet Anderson,  
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,  
Trae Allen, nephew of friend of Susan Fetsch,  
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,  
Sheryl Aldersen, friend of Dale Albers,  
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle  
Charles, brother of Joe VanKempen,  
Scott, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,  
Hugo B Gibson, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Kai son Davis, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Cameron Leckliter, neighbor of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Alyssa, niece-in-law of Mike and Jane Scherrer,  
Tim Sullivan, friend of the VanKempens,  
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,  
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,

Bill Benne, friend of Joyce and Louis Johnson,  
Lynn, Dennis & Sharon Thee, relatives of Barbara  
Strampe,  
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,  
Craig Aldag, Uncle of Ali Luin,  
Manuel & family, friend of Jenny Wheeler's grandson,  
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Andrew, friend of the Scherrers,  
Jenny Mack, Niece of Jenny Wheeler,  
Chris, Brother of Pete Cagle,  
Amber Smith, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Family of Kathy, cousin of Barb Nail,  
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,  
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,  
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,  
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,  
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,  
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,  
Katherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,  
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,  
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,  
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,  
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,  
Rosemary Williams & her sons Wayne & Wade Beck,  
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart Stewart,  
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,  
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,  
All People affected by natural disasters

### **Those in the Military:**

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,