

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20th, 2020

Worship Service available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KL-9P4b02-l&feature=youtu.be>

Before the service, let us silently speak to God.

During the service, may God speak to us.

After the service, let us joyously speak to our friends.

Prelude: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. Lani Smith
Lunetta Knowlton, Piano
Peter Madpak, Organ

Advent Prayer & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

D.J. Vleck

Hymn: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Hymnal 265

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Acclamation

BCP 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People: *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.*

Collect of Purity

BCP 355

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.*

Trisagion

S-101

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal
One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have
mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Collect for the Day

BCP 212

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Congregation: Collect for St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Gracious God, through your Fatherly goodness, make St. Mark's a Christian community united to serve others; enrich our life in Christ, that we might celebrate and share Christ's love; and send your Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage to proclaim the Good News of your love through word and deed. Amen.

A Reading from the second book of Samuel (2 Samuel 7:1-11,16)

Reader: Lisa Taylor

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. 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?" 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; 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. 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, 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. 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 89

Jillian Steffens, Cantor



1. How I feel like singing, announcing to the world your constant faithful love, O Lord.
You have shown the greatness of your love; by covenant you chose us as your own, until the end of time.
2. O, how blest are they who can know the joyous grace that comes from praising you, my Lord.
At your very name how they rejoice, and in your justice you will raise them up. Their hearts reflect your love
3. For you are our splendor, the reason for our strength; the cause of all our hopes and dreams.
Only by your love do we exist. Only by your choice glorified; for you, O Lord, are God.

A Reading from St. Paul letter to the Romans (Romans 16:25-27)

Reader: Dan Cole

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 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-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

The Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

The Gospel of the Lord *Praise to thee, Lord Christ*

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon John Lawrence

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

Prayers of the People

People may stand or kneel for the prayers.

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake. That we might be ready for your coming and eager to pray. O God, you are the potter, and we are the clay, the work of your hand.

We pray for the church, that you might form us and mold us into the church you would have us be.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your time O Lord, the valley shall be lifted up, the mountains and hills shall be made low, and the rough places will become a plain. We pray for our nation and all the nations, that your peace will be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In your kingdom, O Lord, you bring unending comfort. You feed your flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs into your arms. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and all those in distress of any kind; that you will heal all injuries, comfort

all grief, and settle all wrongs.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Your great works of redemption, O God, span the ages, we pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate their birthday and anniversaries; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sigh might fleet away.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your Son to be born of our sister Mary; and his name was Emmanuel, God be with us. We thank you for your present with us and we pray that you might be always present with those who we love and no longer see.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come among us, O God, and hear our prayers, so that when your son Jesus comes among us, with great might and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice and come to adore him. *Amen*

Confession

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

The Peace:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: *And also with you.*

Announcements (see end of bulletin)

Anthem: *Breath of Heaven*

arr. Craig Courtney
Emma Robbins, Soprano

THE HOLY COMMUNION THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Proper Preface of the day said by Celebrant

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel (if able).

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Our Father, who 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 trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.*

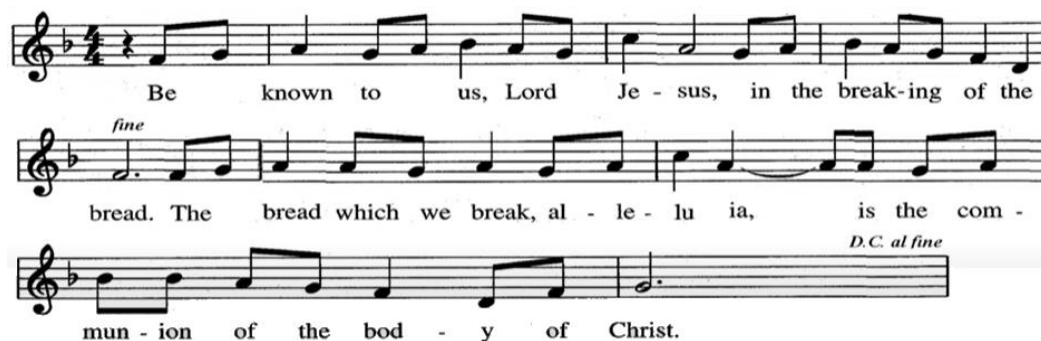
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia*



Act of Reception

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every Altar of your church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection, I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of your body and blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse me of my sins and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem: *Ecce Novum*

Ola Gjeilo

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord *Amen.*

Blessing

Hymn: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Believers*

Hymnal 68

Dismissal:

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude: *Dance on 'Gabriel's Message'*

Michael Bedford



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Virtual Advent Lessons and Carols. The Story told in Scripture and Song. St. Marks is happy to present this service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. As you experience this service of sacred Word and music, listen for the story of the God's saving Grace, the message of love and redemption for the world. May these words and this music bring you peace, as we anticipate the joy to come.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaPNuE7qJxU&feature=youtu.be>

HOLIDAY CHEER - Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 3:00pm. Come join us for a joyous Christmas celebration! The First Brass of Sarasota and Peter Madpak will share some favorite Christmas carols and songs of the season. Expect a visit from a favorite Saint and treats as well! We'll light the tree and share a special time together. Some chairs are available to sit in the labyrinth, or move out to the lawn, in the park across the street, or even your car. Social distancing and masks are required.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve Service for Children December 24, 2020 at 3:30 outdoors on the Labyrinth. Bring the young ones to this celebration of Holy Eucharist with storytelling. Some chairs will be available, or you may bring your own. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks. Reservations will NOT be required. All attending must sign in with contact number and verify that they have not been exposed to or been ill with COVID-19 for the past 14 days, and currently feel well.

** There will be separate reservations for each of the following services, please be certain to register for the time you wish to worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **Reservations for all Christmas Services will open Tuesday, Dec 15th.** You can register online, <https://stmarksvenice.com/services/> or you can call the office to register. **

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020 at 5:30 pm AND 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary with Music. Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Seating will be limited, and reservations will be required. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks. **SPECIAL NOTE: THE 7:30 PM SERVICE IS BOOKED TO CAPACITY. AT TIME OF PUBLICATION THERE ARE SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THE 5:30 PM SERVICE**

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Seating will be limited, and reservations will be required. All adults and children over 2 are required to wear masks.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS:

"In-person" Worship - Sundays at 9:00 am. Seating is limited. Please register to reserve your seat on our website: <https://stmarksvenice.com/services> or by calling the office. Registration opens Tuesday for the following Sunday's service. For more details, please contact the office.

"In-person" Outside Worship - Saturdays 4:30 pm. Join us outside on the labyrinth for the Saturday Evening Eucharist Service. No reservations are required, we will ask you to sign in when you attend. Mask and social distancing will be the norm. We will have outdoor chairs available or you can bring your own chair. Contact the office with questions. **PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NO SATURDAY OUTDOOR SERVICE ON DECEMBER 26TH**

Coffee Hour, Sundays at 10:00 am. Grab your cup of coffee and join us for some fellowship via [Zoom meetings](#). Sit at your own table and enjoy the weekly conversation about this and that! For more information on Zoom or for help starting Zoom, please contact the church office or check out www.zoom.us. Zoom is an easy video/audio conferencing application. You can join with audio only from any regular telephone.

Drive-Through Communion – Sundays at 11 a.m. – Noon. You are invited to receive Holy Communion from the safety of your car. While this is an unusual approach, we do long to share the blessing of Holy Eucharist as part of our Sunday celebration of prayer and thanksgiving. Please enter the parking lot behind Gray Hall via Riviera Street.

Men's Morning Fellowship – Tuesdays at 10 am. Weekly opportunity for Men's fellowship. Normally during the pandemic, the meetings have been held online **via Zoom**. Please contact the church office for the Zoom meeting details.

Morning Prayer under the Oaks on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 9:30 am. We now have chairs available or you can still bring your own chair, mask are required. We have leaflets available or you may bring your own BCP.

Wired Word Bible Study – Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Wired Word group is taking a break over the holidays. Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 6th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Church office will be closed on December 24 and December 25 in observance of Christmas.



Join us to congratulate The Rev. Canon John Lawrence on the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination. December 19th, 2020 was his Golden Jubilee, an impressive milestone to be celebrated. This occasion marks half a century of faithful and dedicated service to furthering God's Kingdom.

St. Mark's will welcome our new rector, January 13th, 2021. The Rev. Michael Rau comes to St. Mark's with extensive experience and training in youth ministry as well as five years of experience as Rector of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Pennsylvania and experience as Associate Rector in St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, Connecticut. He is a graduate of General Seminary in New York City. During the ten years prior to entering seminary he worked in various positions of increasing responsibility in the Montgomery County Office of Domestic Relations in Pennsylvania.

Fr. Michael's wife, Melissa, works as a consultant to various churches around the country and recently began working as Chief of Staff at Bexley Seabury Seminary, a digital seminary 'without walls'. Fr. Michael and Melissa are very proud of their three children – Talie, a sophomore at Boston Conservatory of Music; Kiersten, a tenth-grade student; Peyton, an eighth-grade student, and Francis, the family dog!

As part of the announcement at St. Mark's Senior Warden, Michael Knowlton, mentioned the guiding hand of God as the critically important component in place throughout the entire transition process. He then specifically thanked the vestry, the search committee, church staff and numerous church volunteers who have worked so hard and accomplished so much during this uniquely difficult and challenging time.



The Sanctuary Candle is Given in Thanksgiving for

The 52nd anniversary of Fr. Calvin's ordination to the sacred priesthood,

By Fr. Calvin+ and Sandy Davis, and their family.



INTERCESSIONS: For the universal Church; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Anglican Communion; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Julio, Bishop of our Companion Diocese; for St. Mark's Clergy; for a resolution to the conflict in the Middle East; for civilian workers; for military chaplains; our service personnel, their families; victims of terror and abuse everywhere; for all those suffering due to disasters of nature.

THE SICK: Jean Alfano, Chad Alley, Milt Barnes, John Barr, Emma Bentley, Sue Bickenton, Joyce Bishop, Patricia Blow, Barbara & Ed Boucher, Barry Briggs, Gibb Brownlie, Genevieve Brussee, Scott Buckley, Dick Bull, Betty Caldwell, Jackson Carmichael, Kayce Caswell, Loretta Cunningham, Donne Cutting, Janie Davis, Ron Davis, Carole Doll, Connie Dowry, Shari Duval, John Eichman, Rodney Eller, Evelyn Eisenhower, Chris Emmons, Mack Emmons, Judy Epperson, Robert Evans, Ouida Felker, Clint Ferrazzo, Dan Flatt, Lyn Ford, Bob Fritche, Flora Garsten, Michael Gavin, Lynda Geyer, Jason Goss, Betty Graves, Jennifer Grieger, Joshua Griffin, Douglas Griffith, Anne Grubb, Steve Grupp, Tracy Hagar, Meredith and Allan Hardman, Woody Harvey, Sue Hatch, Penny Heleman, Kristin Hickey, Hobey Hinchman, Christina Hines, Linda Hintzpeter, Natalie Holcroft, Linda Hopkins, Madeline Horvath, Linda Hubbard, Matt Hulbert, John Hussey, Nancy Hussey, Eleanor Jean, Jennifer, Forrest Jerome, Jill, Joshua Johns, Karen & Steven Kabatski, Molly Kehoe, Robert Kench, Janine Kiddle, Sarah Kipp, Kirstin Knotph, Lee Krumbacher, Mary Kyrzos, Charles Lakowsky, Pat Lauth, Jennifer & Jack Laules, Joyce Leithauser, Leslie Livinghouse, E. Melvin Lloyd, Bill Luckfield, Scott Macintosh, Anita Marshall, Paul Marshall, Michael Mayo, Willa McCafferty, Victor Mankiewicz, Kim Medvedis, Melissa McCoy, Barbara Minor, Andrea Montgomery, Elizabeth Moser, Pam Motte, Mark Nettesheim, Elizabeth Ord, Rachel Parrish, Lucy Patterson, Deb & Holly Ranieri, Eli Rider, Dori Reiley, Tom Ritzel, Sarah and Aaron Royster, Lora Rzepka, Barbara Sammons, Cynthia Schein, Linda Seerey-Lester, David Sherwood, Liz Shetterly, Helen Sica, David Simmons, Jeff Slang, Doug Small, Rich Smith, Lisa Spears, Nan Stortz, Mike Strasburger, Nancy Tabor, Molly Taylor, Marvin Thomas, Sally Thomas, Harris H. Tibbetts, Jr., Peter Tibbetts, Chrissy Todd, David Todd, Len Van Zinderen, Jim Walker, Eddie Ward, Christopher Warnock, Connie Waymer, Ann Weaver, Bernie Welker, John White, Lisa Whole, Bob Williams, Kathryn Williams, Kourtney Williams, Hubert Willis, Randy Willis, Robert Wills, Jan Wolf, Mark Woodward, Ann Worrall, those in nursing homes and our parish homebound.



The prayers of the Parish family are asked for those who have died:

Betty Lou Holmes