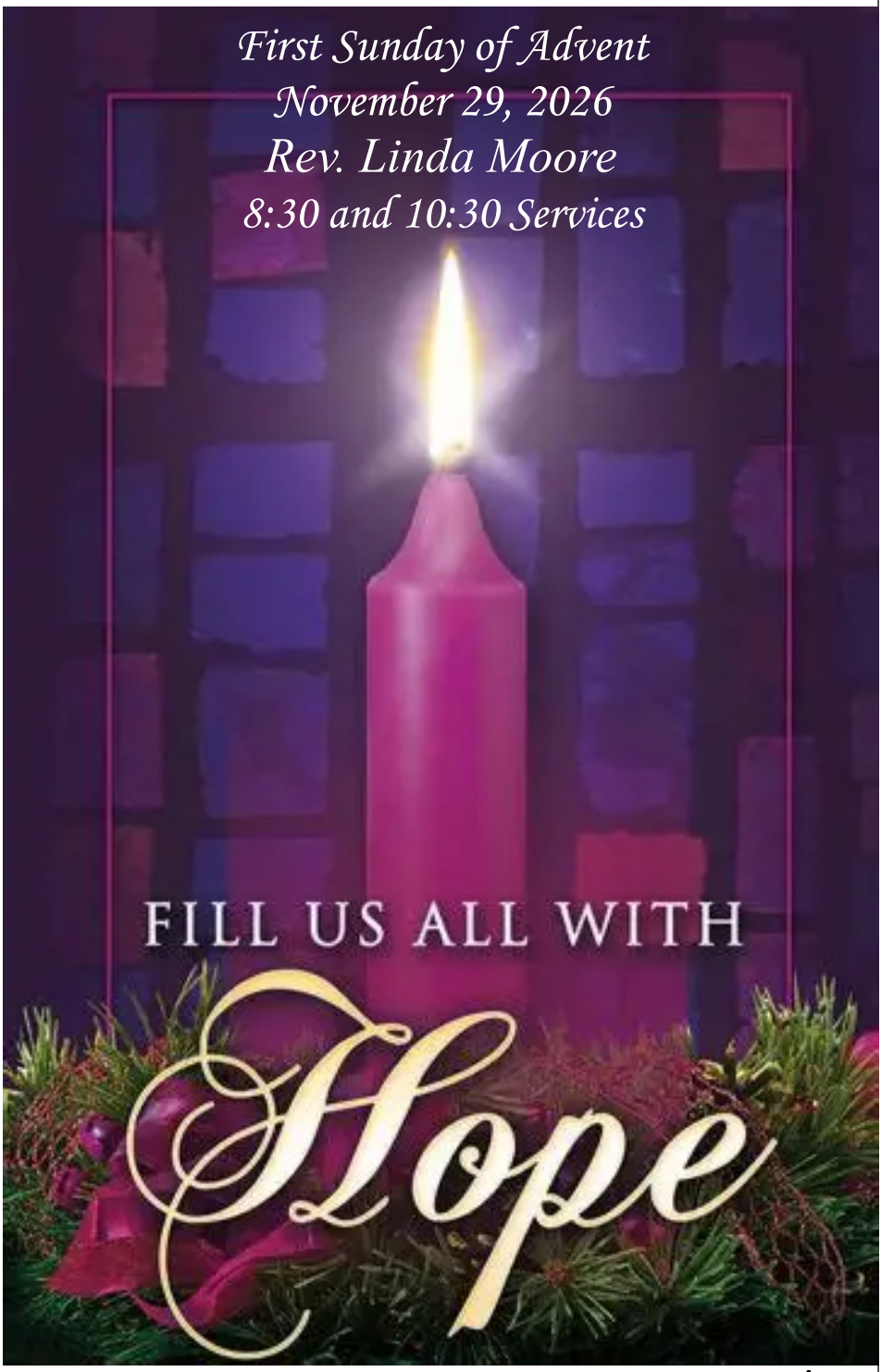
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
Rev. Linda Moore
8:30 and 10:30 Services



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 1982 #73 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People: ***You come to your people and set them free.***

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.***

1982 Hymnal #S96 LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US

(Said at 8:30, and Sung at 10:30)
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The celebrant then continues.
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***
Celebrant: Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

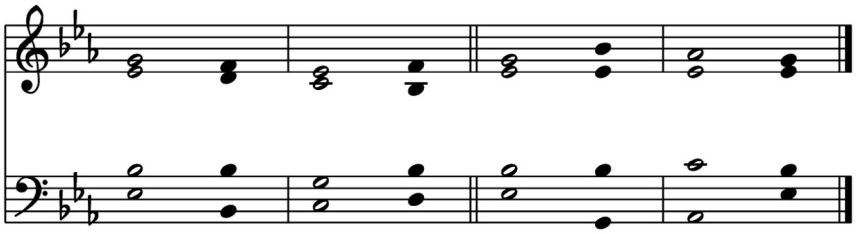
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the 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.***

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***



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PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory be 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.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL HYMN: 1982 Hymnal #57 Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Mark 13:24-37
Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon Rev. Linda Moore

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS, BLESSINGS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

"Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:2

OFFERTORY HYMN: 1982 Hymnal #61 Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant proceeds:

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

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:

SANCTUS 1982 Hymnal #S130
(Said at 8:30, and Sung at 10:30)

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

Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

And now, 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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

FRACTION ANTHEM 1982 Hymnal #S164 Jesus Lamb of God

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION: Organ Voluntary

AT THE COMMUNION

- *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Communion.*
- *All are welcome to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- *Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate by crossing fingers.*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 by Celebrant

RECESSIONAL HYMN: 1982 Hymnal#68 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

The altar flowers are given in thanksgiving to God for the marriage of our daughter Savannah to Adam, in celebration of Jacob's birthday, and with gratitude for the blessings of family. By Mandy Self-Sparrow

St. Mark's Prayer List
We lift up the following in heartfelt prayer: Marion Johannsson, Mary Zacharias, Beth Hunt, Marsha Phillips, Saunders Black, Michael Marecheau, Paul and Michelle Cravetz, Maureen Pollard, Mary Walton, Mark Taylor, Melissa Stewart, Joan Bixby, Shirley Leisey, Blanche Webb, William Davis, Ben Hester, Marc Bowen, and Saylor Graham.

We continue to pray for the success and growth of the following ministries of St. Mark's: La Escuelita San Marcos, Ranson Middle School, and Flyin' Lion Ministries. We also pray for our friends at Caterpillar Ministries and Angels & Sparrows Community Table.

We pray for those in our parish celebrating happy events: Rowen Stein, Cora Stein, and Linda Amidei

Announcements for this week

Annual meeting Sunday Dec. 6, 2026
Following the 9:30 a.m. service.

Christmas Eve Services Dec. 24, 2026
4:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Please pick up Frasier Fir Wreaths and
Trees by Today Sunday Nov. 29, 2026.

Announcements for this week

Looking for a simple, high-impact way to give back and connect with your church community? We need friendly faces to welcome neighbors, friends, and newcomers to our 10:30 a.m. service!

Why join the team?

Minimal Time: Just 10–15 minutes right before the service begins

Low Commitment: Serve just one Sunday a month (or less!)

Easy & Fun: Just bring a smile and say hello

Ready to help?

Please contact Julie Hornsby at jannehornsby@gmail.com or the church office to get signed up. Let's make everyone feel right at home!

Give Here



Announcements for this week

W.I.N.E.
(Women in Need of Entertainment)
December 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., Hosted by
Jennie Yager and Malinda Bivins
in The Rafters
Bring food and/or wine to share.
This is our annual Christmas ornament exchange.
This event is open to all the women of our church.





Daughters of the King

Our vow is for prayer, service, and evangelism, and confidentiality is paramount to our prayer vow. We can pray for you confidentially for anything you do not wish to be put on the public prayer list. We pray daily for many people including our weekly church prayer list. We have provided cards that you can fill out for these requests. You can put them in the offertory plate, give to a DOK member or

Announcements for this week

St Mark's Vendor Market

Saturday, December 5th | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Announcements for this week

St Mark's Garden Guild

St Mark's Garden Guild is seeking volunteers to assist with our playground wood chip regrade installation on Saturday, December 12th at 9 a.m. Please help us refresh the playground by bringing your wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, strong backs and willing hearts. Questions? Call or text Robin Canchola at 361-646-9288. Thank you!

Attention: Kids & Youth Sunday School

There will not be Sunday School for kids or youth on Nov. 29. The Annual Meeting will take place on Dec. 6, and this will be our first practice for the Christmas Pageant. Kids and Youth will meet again for Christmas Pageant Practice on Dec. 13, and the pageant will take place during the 9:30 a.m. service on Dec. 20. Kids and Youth are encouraged to participate on Dec. 20, even if they cannot attend either of the practices. The more the merrier! Please reach out to Kelly Pope or Libby James with questions!

St. Mark's Contact Information

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