

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



St. Mark Lutheran Church

One North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Welcome to worship at St. Mark and a special welcome to those visiting with us today. Following are some notes that may help you in your worship experience this day.

-Songs/Hymns can be found in either the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship - cranberry hymnal) or WOV (With One Voice - blue hymnal). Both can be found under your chair.

-Our offering is an act of worship and privilege to return to God a portion of what He has given us. If you are a guest, do not feel obligated to give. Feel free, however, to join us in this act of worship if you are comfortable doing so. The offerings given joyfully today are used for outreach to the greater church and the ministries of St. Mark. The offering plates will not be passed, but can be found near the doors of the sanctuary.

-Holy Communion is offered during our service each Sunday. All are welcome to come to the table! Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

-Children of all ages are welcome to participate in worship at St. Mark. At baptism, we welcome little ones into God's family and the community of St. Mark. We believe young children have a place in our community which includes worship. Children learn by seeing, hearing and experiencing worship with adults who care about them. The "Pray & Play" area is available near the pulpit, where child can engage in worship with tools meant just for them! We welcome the opportunity to share with you in your child's learning experience. *If you feel the need to leave the Sanctuary during the services, an unstaffed nursery with changing area is available.*

-Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service!

Sunday December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent | 9:30am

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+OPENING HYMN	“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”	ELW 257 v. 7 and 8
----------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------

CANDLE LIGHTING **“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** **ELW 240 v. 4**

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God for whom we wait,

C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

L: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. Amen.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amy Christie

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Malachi 5:2-5

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But 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. ³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7

Our Psalm today will be read responsively. The lectern side will read the regular print and the pulpit side will read the bold.

¹Hear, 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.**

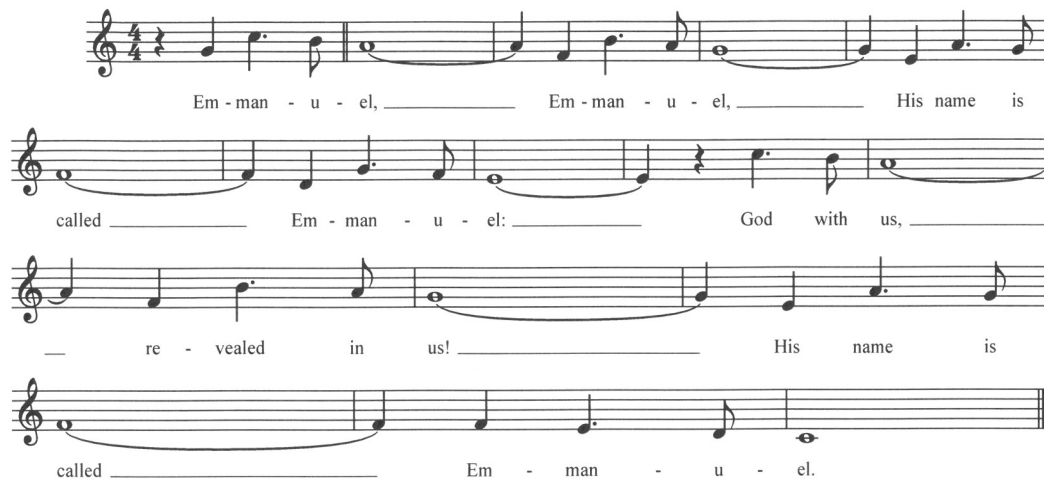
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You 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.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**"Emmanuel"**

1976 by C.A. Music. Used by permission CCLI #789849

+GOSPEL**Luke 1:39-45[46-55]**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

L: The holy gospel according to Luke **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"How the Grinch learned the Magnificat"
Written by Pastor Emmy Kegler

Pastor Mollie Dvorak

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

All



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
 2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
 lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
 won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
 Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
 strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to

D.C.
 weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
 Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

+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 power of 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

L: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers: **L:** Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

L: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

+PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The congregation may share a social distance sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

An offering basket is in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop off your offering. At this time we will not be passing the plates but we continue to be grateful for your generosity.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as part of our worship. You will be directed forward to receive communion (prepackaged). If you feel more comfortable remaining in your seat, prepackaged communion will be available before the service. Children and adults not yet taking communion may come forward for a blessing.

All are welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONGS

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

ELW 239

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

ELW 263

+POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.

+BLESSING

L: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, \pm now and forever.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

"Canticle of the Turning"

ELW 723 v. 1,2

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Ellie Mundale

Prayers: Daryl Grandstrand

Ushers: Susan Koosmann and Sandy Geslin

Greeters: Ann Kelling

Advent Liturgy: Yvonne and Wally Gupstill

“How the Grinch learned the Magnificat” readers:

Grinch: Tom Majkozak

Cindy Lou: Addi Wells

Mary: Amy Christie

Narrator: Pastor Mollie

PRAYER AND CONCERN

Susan, Karen Gregory’s sister

We also pray for: Mark, Richard, Robbin, Verna, Yvonne, Susan, Sherry, Sue, Wendy, Kelly, Sandy, Mashell, Shannon, Larry, Leslie, Dave, Sandie, and Mark.

Please contact the office with any updates to this prayer and concern list—thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live Nativity TODAY!

Join us for our second annual Live Nativity on December 19th (TODAY!) from 4-6pm! We invite you to park your car (or drive thru) and walk through the different nativity scenes. You'll be receiving a keepsake that will represent each different scene as well. And NEW this year - PJ's Grill food truck will be joining us! There's no cost for the event, but bring cash/credit to purchase dinner from PJ's Grill. We can't wait to celebrate the Christmas season with you!

Project Feeding Families

Today is the last day to donate funds to help families in the Centennial area who rely on school lunches over winter break. You can donate funds via our giving page or by dropping off a cash/check at church with Project Feeding families in the memo line. Donations are due by December 19th.

Christmas Eve Services

Please join us on Friday December 24th, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! We will be offering two different services: 4:00pm and 10:00pm. All are welcome!

Gas and Food Cards

Thank you to all who have donated gas and food cards for our crisis fund. We are still in need of a few gas cards. If you are able to donate, please keep the amounts between \$10-\$20 for Holiday gas station (or another local gas station).

December It's the Little Things Experiment

For our last month of our experiments, we are inviting you to take some time to reflect on what you can offer to Jesus. Write down gift or talent you would like to offer to God. And place it inside the small box that's provided. Place it somewhere in your home that is visible to serve as a reminder of how you can bless others with your gift. You can pick up this month's envelope in the narthex, along with all the other months -if you missed any.

Worship on December 26th will be lessons and carols! We hope to see you all there!

Education and Fellowship time will be taking a break for the next two weeks (December 26th and January 2nd). Both will resume on January 9th - thank you!

St. Mark Giving

December 6th through December 12th giving totaled: \$8,959

Needed to cover Plan for Ministry: \$5,490

Worship Attendance

December 5: 177

November 28: 144

November 21: 200

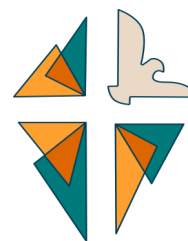
November 14: 176

This week at St. Mark

Monday 12/20	Office Hours: 12-4pm Men who love donuts: 9:30am Women's Bible study: 9:30am
Tuesday 12/21	Office hours: 12-5pm Staff Meeting: 1:30pm
Wednesday 12/22	Office hours: 12-5pm
Thursday 12/23	Office Hours: 12-3pm
Friday 12/24	Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00pm 10:00pm
Saturday 12/25	Merry Christmas!! AA: 10:30am
Sunday 12/26	Worship at 9:30am <i>Lessons and Carols</i>

Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS010009. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

CCLI Streaming License #20184835 One License Streaming #A-718529



SAINT MARK
Evangelical Lutheran Church

***Growing Together
in God's Love to
Serve Others***

Directory

Office Phone:
763-784-2558

Website:
StMarkCP.org

Pastor:
Mollie Dvorak
pastor@stmarkcp.org

**Office Manager and
Youth Director:**
Jenny Aleckson
office@stmarkcp.org

Choir Director:
Donna Peterson

Housekeeper:
Sandy Geslin

