



ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**2nd Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024
Worship Service 9:30 am**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

200 South Main Street
Washington, Illinois 61571
309-444-4618
office@stmarkswashington.org

Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Bob Rasmus

Visitation Pastor
Rev. Dick Hanson

2nd Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m.

December 8, 2024

Introduction – Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Welcome Pads – are located at the end of pew, please sign and pass to your neighbor.

Nursery – is staffed and located across from the Children's Clubhouse.

Nursing Nook – A private room for nursing mothers is available on the upper level of the sanctuary to the right of the elevator.

Noah's Ark for Children – There are books, puzzles, lacing and tracing cards, and weekly activity packets for use during the service for children. Re-useable items are returned to the ark at the end of the service.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Westphalen Family

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verse 2)

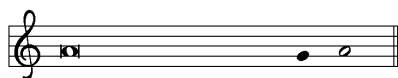
Hymn# 257

OPENING SONG

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Hymn# 843

KRYIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



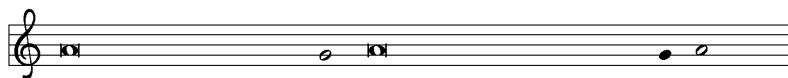
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



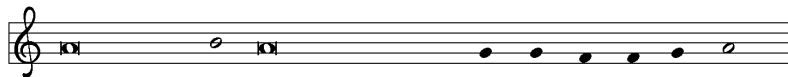
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

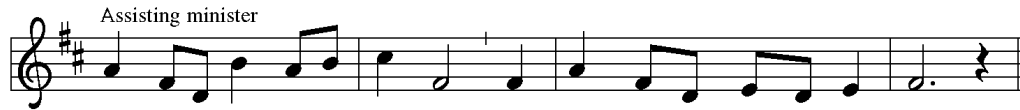


let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SENDING SONG

Pastor Bob Rasmus

"Jesus Loves Me"

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

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

Please stand for the Gospel.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

Read Responsively

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David. R**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of | all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
free to worship you | without fear,

⁷⁵ **holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**
⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
⁷⁷ **to give God’s people knowledge | of salvation**
by the forgiveness | of their sins.
⁷⁸ In the tender compassion | of our God
 the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

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

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

The congregation may be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor **Bob Rasmus**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Hymn# 264

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS



Lori & Steve Woodard

Kristen & Steve Demma

Quentin Scherr

David Rees & Jamie Powers

Haley & Graham Whitaker

Breanna & Layla Lojo



Pastor Bob: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are grateful that you have decided to join in the fellowship and mission of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. We are one with you in our common commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ receives us and makes us members of His Church. In the Community of God’s people and through the Word, you have learned God’s loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So I ask, do you intend to continue in the covenant God makes with us in Holy Baptism:

- To live among God’s faithful people,
- To hear God’s Word and share in Holy Communion
- To proclaim the good news of god in Christ through word and deed,
- To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

New Members: “We do”

APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

We 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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

We 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.

Pastor: You have affirmed your commitment to Jesus Christ and this congregation. From this day forward you will share in both the privileges and responsibilities of membership as we strive together to grow in faith and discipleship.

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank you Father for these newest members of St. Mark's - our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we support and love one another as we grow in faith together in the days ahead. Equip them for mission in your church that they might share the good news of the Gospel in their daily lives. Increase in all of us your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen

Pastor: People of St. Mark's, do you promise to welcome these new members into this Christian fellowship and to support them in our walk of faith together?

Congregation: We do.

Pastor: Let us Welcome these new members.

Congregation: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

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

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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 God thanks and praise.**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

COMMUNION AT THE ALTAR & IN THE PEW

If you need a communion packet, raise your hand and an usher will bring it to you. Children who have not been confirmed or received instruction in Holy Communion are invited forward for a blessing. Adults who are not baptized are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire to commune, extend your hand to the pastor, who will give you a wafer. Then, move to the communion assistant next to the pastor where you will be offered a tray with wine (dark colored) or grape juice (light colored) and in disposable cups which can be thrown away in receptacles.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

S 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

CHOIR ANTHEM

“A Time for Advent”
Stewart Harris

St. Mark’s Choir

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Hymn# 256

COMMUNION AT HOME

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord, bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn# 631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to serve and love the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**



*Altar Flowers are sponsored today by Annette Heller
in memory of her mother, Alice Briggs, who recently passed.*

SERVING TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

USHERS	Steve Barton, John Antrobus, Beth Funcannon
DEACONS	Margie Ary, SueAnn Billimack, Beth Bradley, Diana Lindahl, Bill Flowers
READERS	Cindy Calvert
FELLOWSHIP	Gina Williams, Sam Waddell
NURSERY	Karen Kremer, Marsha Rigg
AUDIO/VISUAL	Mike Griffith, Pam Marcoline-Griffith, Steve Demma
ALTAR GUILD	Cindy Calvert & Dee Mertens
ACOLYTES	Graham Roxworthy, Caleb Earle

Offering Envelopes

2025 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup. They are in Beckwith Hall by the double door entrance. If you do not find a set with your name on it and would like a set, please contact the church office.



Let's trim the tree with mittens, hats, scarves, pajamas, coats for South Side Mission in Peoria. The tree has been set up again in Beckwith and the donations will be delivered after New Year's Day holiday! If you have any questions, please contact Shannon at Shannon.boynton@stmarkswashington.org

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

CALLING ALL MEN!



Join Pastor Hanson in the FLC for Bible study, prayer, & fellowship.

Saturday, December 14 & 28 @ 8:30 am.



December's collection item for **WHIP** is Jelly!

We will also be collecting plastic bags for **WHIP** to use.

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice



Sunday, December 8th @ 10:45 am
Saturday, December 14th @ 9:00 am



Cookie decorating to follow Saturday's practice please
RSVP to Shannon Boynton so she can prepare.

Contact her or the church office with any questions.

The Christmas Program is **Sunday, December 15th** during worship.

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM
YOU HAVE A SAVIOR
IN HEAVEN



The 2nd video of Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem" advent study will begin after today's service beginning at 11AM. Please stop by the fellowship hall first & introduce yourself to St. Mark's newest members, & then join Cindy Calvert in the conference room for the video & discussion.

Youth News

Sunday, December 8th 10:45 AM

HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 11th 6:30 PM

CROSS TRAINERS & CONFIRMATION

Sunday, December 15th

Samples
Available

BUTTER BRAID DELIVERY DAY!

PRAY FOR	REASON FOR PRAYER	REQUESTED BY
Bob Page	Health	Laurie Mathes
Reed Fry	Health	Joe & Carol Madden
Marjorie Vogel song	Healing	Mary Wilson
Bill Pribble	Healing	Ruth Alt-Lauterbach
Ed Pribble	Health	Ruth Alt- Lauterbach
Eva Schierer	Healing	Mary Hills
John & Rowena Ridings	Peace & Comfort	John Antrobus
Rodney Johnson	Healing	Pastor Hanson
Jackie French	Health	Roger French
Molly Boynton	Healing	Shannon Boynton
Bacon family	Peace & Comfort	Shannon Boynton
Shirley Gerken	Health	Paul Gerken
Arlene Johnson	Health	Sue Essig
Richard Lavin	Health	Roger French
Tristan Philips	Healing	Tom Rigg
Mary Hills	Healing	St. Mark's Staff
Kayla Strehlow	Health	Linda Keys
Marvine Engel	Peace & Comfort	Karen Kremer
Eric Bell	Protection & Guidance	Kathy Bell



If you are still interested in sponsoring a Christmas Poinsettia in honor or memory of loved ones. We will have a limited number if you would like to purchase one. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 15, 4-7 PM
Outside St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Come witness the birth of baby Jesus in the manger at a live nativity outside at St. Mark's. Drive-by or walk through for fellowship and Christmas caroling. There will be live actors and barn-yard animals as well as hot chocolate and cookies.



ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR 150 YEARS AND COUNTING
MAKE IT COUNT - MAKE YOUR MARK

200 SOUTH MAIN ST, WASHINGTON, IL | STMARKSWASHINGTON.ORG

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 8

8:30 am: Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 am: Worship Service
 10:30 am: Fellowship Hour
 10:45 am: Sunday School
 11:00 am: Because of Bethlehem

Monday, December 9

9:30 am: Staff Meeting
 8:00 pm: Washington AA

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 pm: Cross Trainers & Confirmation

Thursday, December 5

6:00 pm: Childcare Christmas Program
 8:00 pm: Washington AA



SERVING NEXT WEEK - December 8

USHERS	Steve Barton, John Antrobus, Beth Funcannon
DEACONS	Margie Ary, SueAnn Billimack, Beth Bradley, Diana Lindahl, Bill Flowers
READERS	Cindy Calvert
FELLOWSHIP	Gina Williams & Sam Waddell
NURSERY	Karen Kremer & Marsha Rigg
AUDIO/VISUAL	Mike Griffith, Pam Marcoline Griffith, Steve Demma
ALTAR GUILD	Cindy Calvert & Dee Mertens

**ST. MARK'S YOUTH PROGRAM - DECEMBER FUNDRAISER
BUTTER BRAIDS**

Funds will be used to help St Mark's Youth and Chaperones attend the YOUTH QUAKE in the Wisconsin Dells February 14-16, 2025. Thank you for your support of St Mark's Youth!

BUTTER BRAID SAMPLE DAY - SUNDAY, DEC 15 AT COFFEE HOUR
PLACE AN ORDER BY DEC 8 AND YOUR ORDER WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PICK UP SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15

Get one BUTTER BRAID for each \$20 donation to St Mark's Youth Program
SPECIAL DEAL - Order 3 BUTTER BRAIDS for a \$50 donation. Great idea for gift giving! GOAL: HELP THE YOUTH SELL 100 BUTTER BRAIDS - TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!

_____ Apple	_____ Cinnamon
_____ Strawberry & Cream Cheese	_____ Cream Cheese
_____ Chocolate	_____ Four Cheese & Herb
_____ Cherry	

Total BUTTER BRAIDS Ordered: _____
 Amount Paid : _____ or Amount Due: _____
 Envelope Number: (Optional) _____
 CUSTOMER NAME: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Note: A limited number of extra BUTTER BRAIDS will be available on delivery Sunday (Dec 15). You are encouraged to order yours in advance. Orders can be turned in at the Welcome Center or church office, as well as made on-line through Sunday, December 8.
 Questions: Contact Jill Goldhammer, Youth Director, at 309-370-1692;
 jill.goldhammer@stmarkswashington.org

Please make checks payable to: ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Butter Braid Fundraiser

All proceeds will go towards the Youth Quake Trip in Wisconsin Dells!

APPLE
STRAWBERRY & CREAM CHEESE
CHOCOLATE
CHERRY
CINNAMON
CREAM CHEESE
FOUR CHEESE AND HERB

\$20 each OR 3 for \$50

You can place your orders on Sundays, December 1 and December 8!