# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 30, 2025

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 <a href="mailto:stmarkswilliamsport.org">stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
<a href="mailto:Rev.Brian">Rev.Brian D. Vasey, Pastor</a>
<a href="mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org">bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>

Welcome to Saint Mark's!
This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

An Order for Holy Communion; a Veni Emmanuel Setting

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

*Light print = Pastor/Leader.* **Bold print = Congregation.** 

\*Please stand as you are able.

#### INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

**PRELUDE** People, Look East Wayne L. Wold

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

#### \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross as marked at baptism

In Christ our salvation now draws near.

Alleluia! Come Lord Jesus!

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Kneel/Stand. Silence for reflection.

Long-expected Savior, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. 

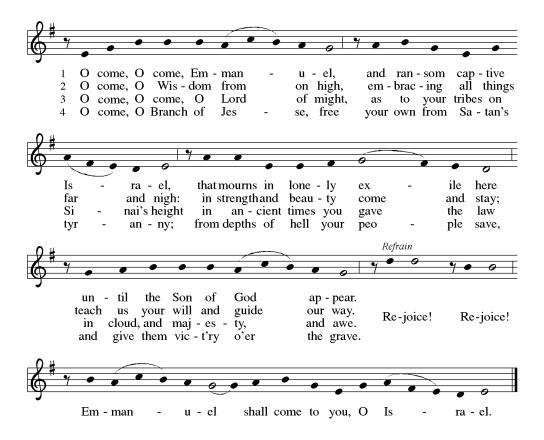
+ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

# \*HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1-4)

LBW, "Green," 34

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

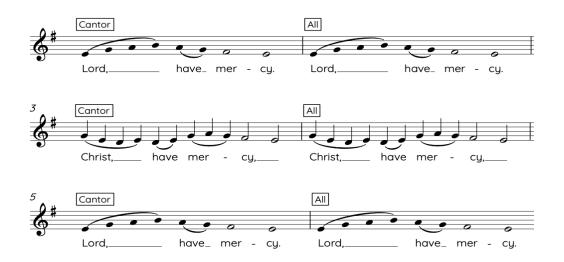


#### \*THE GREETING

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



# \*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH (sung)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you Oh Israel!

#### \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

# And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 122**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they | said to me, "Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;

4 to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:

"May they pros- | per who love you.

<sup>7</sup> Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the | LORD our God, I will seek to | do you good."

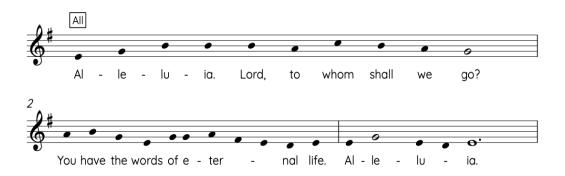
#### THE SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



#### \*THE GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you

do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.



### THE SERMON

\*HYMN Awake! Awake For Night is Flying LBW, "Green," 31

# Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

#### \*THE NICENE CREED

With all the people of God, we confess our faith:

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 INTERCESSION

After each petition: Coming Lord/Hear our prayer.

#### \*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

People may greet one another with these or similar words.

**ANTHEM** 

The Yearning

**Craig Courtney** 

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

# \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

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 him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you

in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you

in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you

for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

# Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

# Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,

we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God.

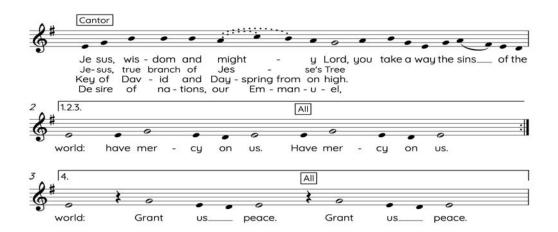
Now and forever.

Amen.

#### \*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:
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.

#### \*LAMB OF GOD



# \*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Here is Emmanuel, God with us.

Come and receive what God has promised.

#### Amen. Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup on the way. Receive the bread from Pastor Vasey and then proceed to receive the wine from one of two pouring chalices. After communing, please return to your pew by the side aisles. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his holy supper. If you cannot drink wine, eat only bread. If you cannot eat bread, drink only wine.

#### THE COMMUNION

#### \*AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

#### Amen

#### \*BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

#### Amen.

# \*HYMN The King Shall Come

LBW, "Green," 33

# The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

#### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** Veni, Emmanuel Robert J. Powell

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#### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Carol Waltz, Sandy Noyce, and the families of Catherine Lundy and Ray Reams.

#### **COMMEMORATIONS**

## Andrew, Apostle

Sunday, November 30, 2025

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.



# Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).



# John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Thursday, December 4, 2025

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.



## Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. The "Historical Santa Claus" (San Nicolaus in Latin) was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.



#### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, December 1 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Tuesday, December 2 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Wednesday, December 3 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Mid-week Advent Worship, Chapel, 12:10 pm

Thursday, December 4 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Friday, December 5 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Saturday, December 6 Office Closed

Sunday, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Chrismon Service, 9:30 am
Annual Meeting and Brunch

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP for November 23, 2025**

<b>Grand Total</b>	\$3636.00
Flower Memorials/Tribute	s 140.00
Christmas Flowers	204.00
Parish Life	50.00
Food Pantry	15.00
Thanksgiving	95.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
Regular Offering	\$3092.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In honor of our wedding anniversary on November 30<sup>th</sup>, by Mel Wentzel; and In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

#### **BULLETIN SPONSOR:**

In honor of our wedding anniversary by Mel & Mindy Wentzel.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS for November 30, 2025**

10:30 am Brenda Gair

Communion Assistants 8:00 am Drew Haussmann

10:30 am Matt & Wanda F.

Ushers 8:00 am Miller/Poff

10:30 am Matt F/Glenn Y/Mel W

Hospitality 8:00 am Shirley Kinney Organist Sam Robinson

Altar Guild (NOVEMBER) Matt & Wanda Fortin

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Mel & Mindy Wentzel 11/30

#### **KEEP IN MIND:**

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email

(bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



So we are done for this year however, please do not stop thinking about the kits and the items for them! Watch the clearance racks and shelves for items and snap them up. If you do not want to store them at home, you can bring them to the church and put them in the office opposite the middle lounge - you will know which one it is - the messy one with boxes, etc. Baby clothes, towels, etc. can be found on clearance. Deb Buckman



WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email:

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



# **Urgent Needs At.....**

<u>Shepherd of the Streets:</u> Shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, boxes of tissues and baby wash, wipes and shampoo. Any other hygiene item is also greatly appreciated.

<u>Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):</u> Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, Dixie paper bowls (10-12 oz.) and plastic forks. FYI: STM serves more than **600** meals each week that include both eat-in and brown bag lunches to go.

<u>United Churches Food Pantry:</u> As we near the holiday season, please consider continuing to offer non-perishable food items to be used by the Pantry. Choosing to participate in our Reverse Advent project is an easy and fun way to do so. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated as the need is great and growing.

## Gifting the Ladies of CM-6 and the Residents of the Danville State Hospital

For the ladies of CM-6, we are in need of cozy slipper socks, pudding cups in all flavors but vanilla, (Vanilla is the only flavor the center serves.) moisturizing body wash and money to offset the cost of items not donated. We will also take a basket of individually wrapped snacks for the caregivers. Donations of needed items and snacks can be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selinsgrove Party." Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give.

## Donations for the Ladies of CM-6 are due by Sunday, December 14, 2025.

For the Residents of the Danville State Hospital, we supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. The need is greatest for those residents who arrive at the hospital in November or December. Items being requested this year for both men and women include socks, hats, gloves, scarves, inexpensive wallets and watches, underwear, sweatshirts, sweat pants, t-shirts and slippers in sizes large and up. Regular sizes of body wash, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and deodorant are also requested.

All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

**Donations for Danville State Hospital are due by Sunday, December 7, 2025.** 

# **Holiday Cookie Trays**

Need cookies for Christmas? The Rise Up Village Bakery (<u>riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com</u>) is offering Holiday Cookie Trays. One tray contains three dozen assorted cookies plus extra sweet surprises. Profits benefit the United Churches of Lycoming County

Price: \$25.00 (Prepay by December 2)

Pickup: Choice of December 9 or December 16

Order Link: https://forms.gle/uXJdp35RoJmD4Wq97 or call 570-215-3577

# **Church Women United - Update**

Members of CWU make fidget bags and small fidget quilts for hospitalized children and nursing home residents. If any members of St. Mark's have cotton or cotton/polyester material they wish to donate to the ladies, please leave it in the Narthex and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will deliver it to them.



Please join us **today**, Sunday, November 30, for our annual <u>Advent Wreath-making</u> event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 ish) to create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. We will be making our wreaths in a variety of vessels and containers, using wet floral foam to keep the greens fresh throughout the Advent season. All materials will be provided! We look forward to seeing you there!

\* Materials will also be available after the 10:30 service should you wish to meander on over to Fellowship Hall and create a wreath for your home.



St. Mark's Church Council cordially invites you to attend a brunch immediately following the December 7th Annual Congregational Meeting. Our brunch menu, catered by The Food Guy, is tentatively set for quiche, egg casserole fresh fruit, sweet treats, and beverages and will be served in Fellowship Hall. We look forward to this time of Christian Fellowship, and hope that our time together might be a blessing to you during the busy holiday season.

We ask that you please RSVP by **today**, November 30 so that we have an accurate count to give to the caterer. You can drop your RSVP in the offering plate any time! Thanks!

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# Annual Congregational Meeting Brunch RSVP

Name:	
Number Attending:	
Please return by: November 30, 2025  * A free will donation will be taken.	

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