

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021**

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brain D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



***Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!***

**Our Mission: “*To know Christ and to make Christ known.*”**

***This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.***

***We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.***

***Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.***

**Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!**

***An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., With One Voice, Setting Five (WOV, “Blue Book”)***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

**PRELUDE** *Ave Maria*

Arcadelt arr. Franz Liszt

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

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

*The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

P 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.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P 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.**

P 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.**

## All Earth Is Hopeful

*Toda la tierra*

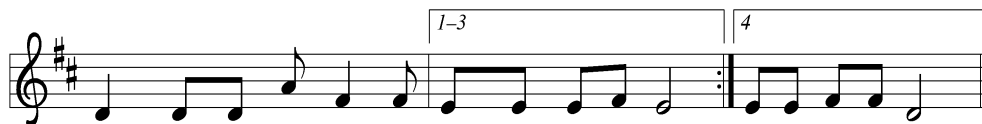
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"  
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.  
 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*  
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,  
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*  
*pero en el mundo está presente hoy.*  
*Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;*  
*y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*

## \*THE GREETING

**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## \*KYRIE



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## \*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, Stanza 4 (WOV, “Blue”, 630)

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. 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.**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*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."*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Micah 5:2-5a**

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.

The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7**

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**2In 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.

**4O 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.

**6You 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.

**THE SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 10:5-10**

5Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

6in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

7Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

8When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**





**\*THE NICENE CREED**

**P** Living together in trust and hope, let us affirm our faith

**C** 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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, "Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great."*

**\*THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*

**ANTHEM** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Williams Reynolds

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**P** 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 again 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:

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

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

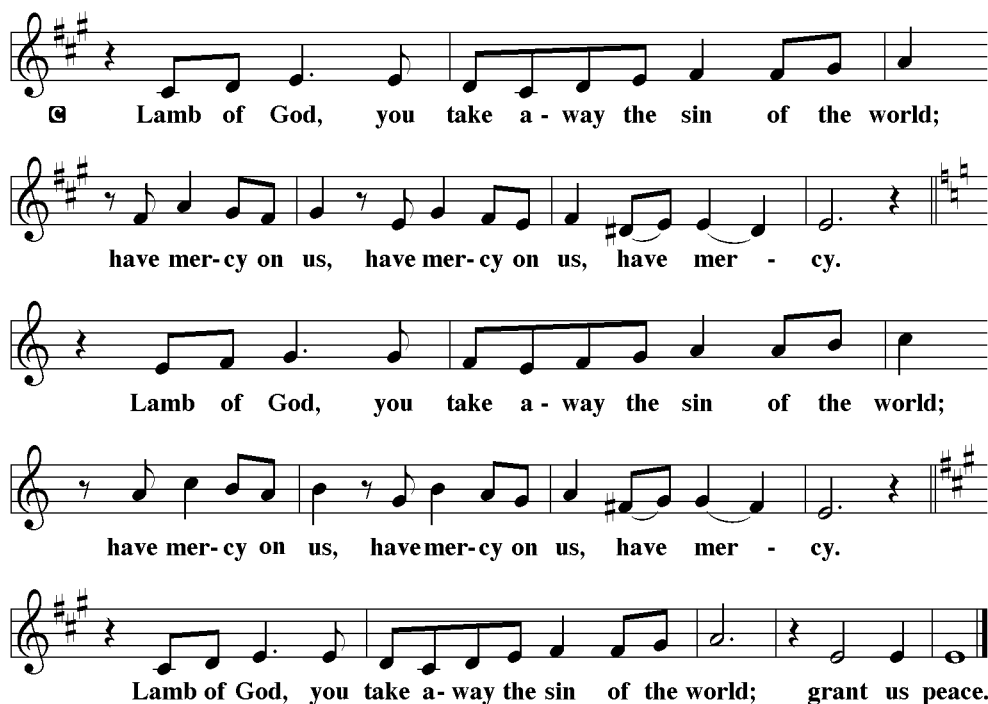
**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

**C 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**



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

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*

- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

*Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.*

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on grace.

C **Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P 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.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

P The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**Hark, the Glad Sound**

**(LBW, "Green", 35)**

**Hark, the Glad Sound!**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace, Christ is near.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Magnificat Primi Toni*

Johann Pachelbel

+++++

Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...

*Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.*

*sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.*

*"One License" A-738528.*

+++++

**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, James Zeigler, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau and family.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (12/19/2021)**

**Lector**                    8 a.m. Ruth Rees

10:30 a.m. Mel Wentzel

**Cantor/Song Leader (10:30 a.m.)**    Deb Buckman

**Communion Assistants**

8 a.m. Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m. Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel

**Organist**                Sam Robinson

**USHERS:**

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, Captain. Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair

**COVID CONTACT:** Please note that your attendance at worship will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact-tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** continues on Wednesdays in Advent, 12:15 p.m. This year a Bible study during the noon hour replaces the traditional mid-week Service of the Word. Our study will be the traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love associated with the Advent Season, and the schedule will be as follows:

+LOVE: John 3:16-21, December 22

We will meet in Fellowship Hall 12:15-12:45 p.m. No meal will be served but feel free to bring a “bag lunch” if you so desire. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. All are welcome!



## **HATS, GLOVES AND MITTENS, OH MY!**

The Newberry Branch of NGA distributes new clothing and coats to needy children, women and families in the Greater Williamsport Area. Since November we have distributed 126 coats and counting. If we have hats, gloves and mittens we include them with the coat. At this time, we have very few of these accessories. Please consider donating hats, gloves and mittens for boys and girls in sizes from toddler to adults. A tub is in the Narthex for donations. Thank you for any help you can give.

## **POLISH STARS**

As you enter the Narthex there is a display of Polish stars, created by Lou Ann Zeigler. The Outreach Committee is giving them away at no cost. But to make the joy they give stretch further, we are accepting a modest monetary donation. The combined donations will be used to purchase \$10.00 grocery cards to be given to the United Churches Food Pantry. Mona Rundio, director, gives a card to clients receiving a three-day supply of food. This card allows them to purchase fresh meat, dairy and fruit.

The New Year 2022 **ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP BOOK** will be available starting the first week of January.

**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP (12/12/21)**

Regular Offering	\$ 2,394.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00
Food Pantry	\$ 55.00
Christmas & Advent	\$ 50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Memorials	\$ 200.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,849.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+ In loving memory of Alfred and Lois Johns by Matt and Wanda Fortin and family.

+ In loving memory of Jack and Doris Fortin by Matt and Wanda Fortin and family.

## **COMMEMORATIONS:**

**Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

*Monday, December 20, 2021*

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.