

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022**

in the 169^h Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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.”*



Our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

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

Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Ave Maria* (Arcadelt, arr. Liszt)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of baptism

P Blessed be the Lord ☩, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

The congregation may kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

The pastor stands and speaks the following:

P People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on † Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

***HYMN Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel LBW “Green”, 34**

***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**

The musical notation for the Kyrie consists of three systems of staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with blank lines for vocalists to insert their names. Labels 'Cantor' and 'All' are placed above the staves to indicate the parts.

System 1: Cantor (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.) All (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.)

System 2: Cantor (Christ, ___ have mer - cy, ___) All (Christ, ___ have mer - cy, ___)

System 3: Cantor (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.) All (Lord, _____ have mer - cy.)

***LIGHT ONE CANDLE (stanza four)**

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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 7:10-16

10The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put

the LORD to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

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.

**17Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**

18And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

**19Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 1:1-7

1Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, 3the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our

Lord, 5through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, 6including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

2
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the

angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.
The gospel of the Lord.

6 All

Praise to you, O _____ Christ.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. A slur covers the notes B4, C5, and B4. The staff ends with a double bar line and a final G4 note. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Praise to you, O _____ Christ.' are written, with a blank line under 'O'.

THE SERMON

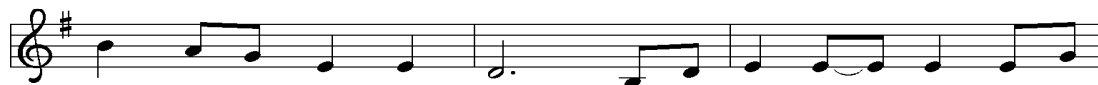


*HYMN **Canticle of the Turning** (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 723*)

Canticle of the Turning



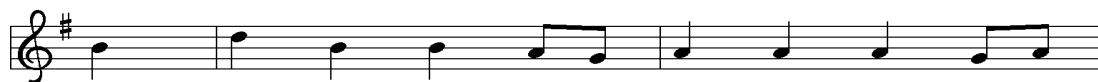
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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;
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, “Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer.”

***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

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we pay homage to the Virgin Mary with a setting of *Ave Maria* by the Franco-Flemish composer of the Renaissance period Jacques Arcadelt (1507-1568). While we commonly attribute this musical setting to Arcadelt, most know that the composer wrote the music for a setting of a three-voice chanson: *Nous voyons que les hommes*. In 1842, a French composer, Pierre-Louis Dietsch discovered this music and adapted the Renaissance piece to fit with the text of Ave Maria prayer. Later, Franz Liszt would take this composition and set it for solo virtuoso piano and organ.

***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 give 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:

1 **Cantor**
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

2 **All**
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

3 **Cantor**
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

4
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

5 **All**
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

6 **Cantor**
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

8 **All**
 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Through Abraham you
 promised to bless the nations.
 Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
 and, at this the end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
 who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
 and was obedient to your will,
 even to the giving of his life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread
and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death,
until he comes.

**C Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore gracious Father,
with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory and receive
our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and place, and unite them with
the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

***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**

Cantor

Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take a way the sins ___ of the
Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree
Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high.
De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,

2 1.2.3. **All**

world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.

3 4. **All**

world: Grant us ___ peace. 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 as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *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.

P Rejoice! Come to the feast of Emmanuel.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven and earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we await the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came WOV, “Blue”, 632**

***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, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Connie Shiable, Ann Kuntz

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30 THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN.

BUT EMERGENCY MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED.

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

WORSHIP LEADERS (December 18, 2022)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
Communion	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor / Drew Haussmann / Jackie
Assistants		Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen, Captain
		Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber
Altar Guild	December	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



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 (12/11/22)

Regular Offering	\$4,214.00
Plate Offerings	15.00
Christmas & Advent	5.00
Parish Life	65.00
Christmas Flowers	24.00
Family Promise Hosting	30.00
Capital Funding	10.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	70.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,443.00



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



The deadline for the January 2023 Newsletter is Tuesday, December 20, 2022. Please make sure all articles are submitted by the deadline. Of course earlier is always appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24, The Nativity of Our Lord

Children's and Family Holy Communion, 7 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Holy Communion, 10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School



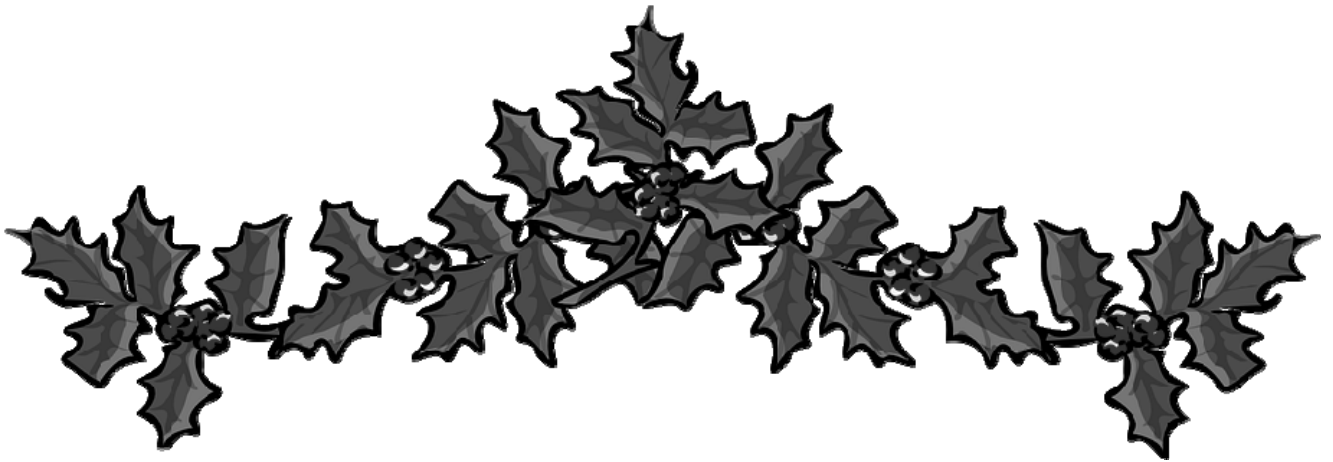
MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays in Advent - November 30 and concluding December 21.

Join us in our chapel from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. as we explore the witness of "Advent Saints".

December 21, Katharina von Bora Luther, Renewer of the Church

ALL ARE WELCOME!





COMMEMORATIONS



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

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

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.