

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 YEAR A



Prelude “O Emmanuel”

Cecelia McDowall (b. 1951) ©2018 Oxford University Press

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984) © 1982 Belwin Mills

(Based on this morning's closing hymn)

Opening Hymn 72 “Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Blessing of the Advent Wreath & Lighting of the Candles

{Finucane Family (Mike, Maddie and James)}

Leader: Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

As the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Advent Candles are lit Verse 4 is sung in unison.

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.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, Sovereign God, just and true:
People ***To you be praise and glory for ever and ever. Amen.***
Presider As your dawn renews the face of the earth,
People ***Bringing light and life to all creation,***
Presider May we rejoice in this day you have made;
People ***As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,***
Presider Open our eyes to behold your presence,
People ***And strengthen our hands to do your will!***

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Trisagion “Holy God” **S102** *Sung Three Times* *Blue 1982 Hymnal*
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Together Let us pray.
Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the

good. For 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.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *see next page*

The Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn 66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

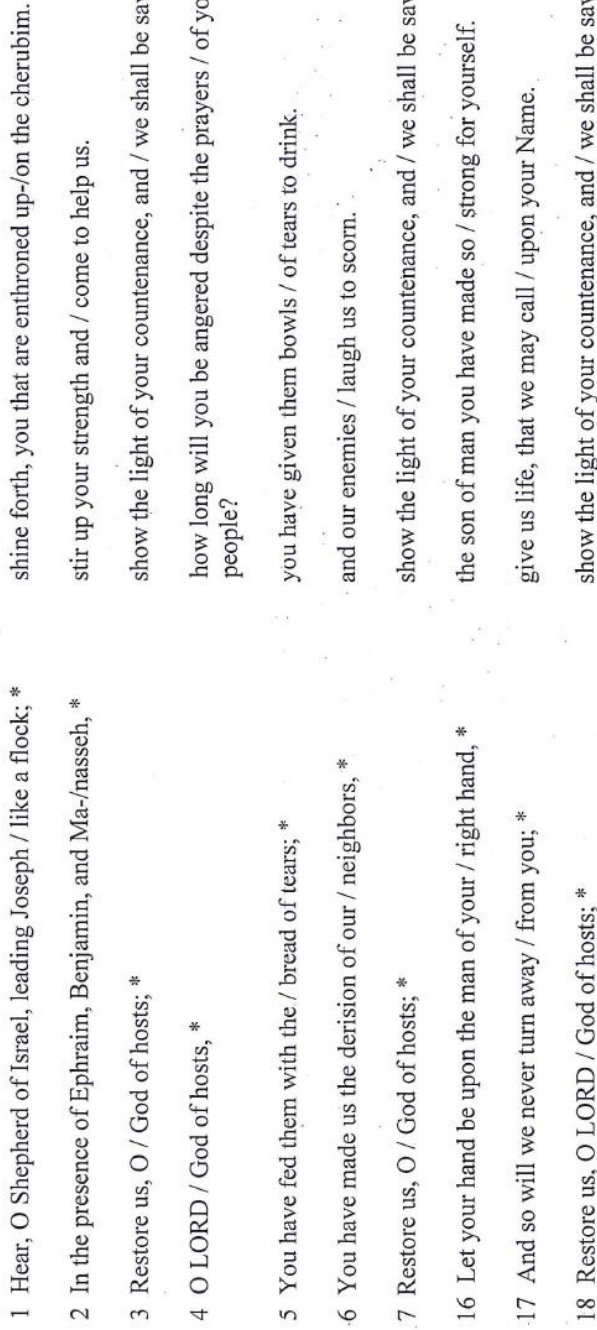
Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Now 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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Tone VIII, 1



Presider The Gospel of the Lord
People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Homily

The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

*All: We believe in God the Creator,
infinite in wisdom, mercy and love,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of God's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the divine presence in our lives,
who sustains and strengthens us, especially in our time of need.
We believe in one God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
and that our faith should manifest itself in the service of love
as set forth in the example of our blessed Savior,
that the realm of God may come upon the earth. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Leader May we in obedient faith assemble in prayer to await the Lord's coming.
May our souls proclaim God's greatness as we pray, ***"Come, O Lord, and save us."***

For the church throughout the world, that we may be set apart for the Gospel of God;
For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Delaney and Jerre our
clergy, and for all the holy People of God;
In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal
Church in St. James;
In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop-designate of
Canterbury and for The Anglican Church of Burundi;
In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision San Bartolome,
Apostol in Lares;

We pray for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries and our outreach partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We give thanks on her birthday with Rita Mauchenheimer . Let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, that they may have the wisdom and courage to bring an end to violence, oppression, and injustice in the world, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

For all peoples of every race, nation and disposition; may the wars on every continent cease, may refugees and survivors find a welcoming new home and the spirit to begin again; let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry, homeless, and the oppressed, and for the lonely and those in prison, let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

We pray for those on our Parish Prayer list, and those whom we name, either silently or aloud [pause];

We pray for all who struggle with addiction, that God may strengthen them in their recovery;

We pray for those serving in the armed forces; let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the dying and the dead and those who grieve, let us pray,
Come, O Lord, and save us.

The Presider offers this concluding collect.

Gracious God, you shape our dreams. As we put our trust in you may your hopes and desires be ours, and may we be your expectant people. ***Amen.***

Confession and Absolution

Presider Holy God, we have fallen short in loving you and loving our neighbors; we stand beside each other and ask for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept for a time.

Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess: We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Presider May the Trinity of Love bring you back to God and forgive you all your sins; be assured of God's eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace *We are a community of reconciliation and peace; therefore, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

*The Congregation greets one another with the peace of Christ.
Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Prayers*

Children's Time

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem “People, Look East” French carol, arr. Malcom Archer (b. 1952)

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table.

People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.

People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the East.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Words by Eleanor Farjeon ©2022 Oxford University Press

Advent Eucharistic Prayer

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Presider God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People ***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Presider and People

Holy, Holy, Holy S124 Hurd

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming. Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem **S161** *Hurd* *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.*

The Ministration of Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to this table, you who wait and you who long in the night, you who rest, and you who hope for the dawn. Here the Word is made flesh, and the Light of Christ meets us in bread and wine. Come, for all is ready. Draw near with hope and with wonder; it is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

All who hunger and thirst for God are welcome to receive the Holy Communion at this altar. Gluten free hosts are available. Please let the minister know that you require gluten free.

Communion Hymn 60 “Creator of the stars of night” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Prayer after Communion

Presider God is with you.

People *And also with you.*

Presider Together, let us pray.

God of promise, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and for gathering us into the mystery of your Advent: a time of waiting, watching, and expectation. Send us now, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn 56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Dismissal

Presider Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go forth walking in hope, carrying peace, living in love, and radiating joy.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

“Toccata on *Veni Redemptor gentium*”
(Based on Hymn 54)

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

© 1962, Concordia Publishing House

All music used with permission from OneLicense.net #A704954

Liturgical language used in this service was prepared by the Diocese of Missouri.

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

<i>Lector:</i> Scott Thompson	<i>Usher:</i> Amanda Cashen	<i>Greeter:</i> Ellen Jeffery
<i>Altar Guild:</i> Tom Bradley	<i>Livestream:</i> Vicki Stegmann	
<i>Crucifer:</i> Scott Thompson	<i>Chalice:</i> Susan Goen/Scott Thompson	
<i>Godly Play:</i> Odle	<i>Coffee Hour:</i> Margaret Hvatum	

Godly Play (3-7yrs) begins at 9:30 am in the Church Basement every Sunday.

Christmas Services

Please join us for our Christmas Services

Wednesday, December 24 th 5:00pm-	Family Worship
Wednesday, December 24 th 10:30 pm-	Choral Worship
Thursday, December 25 th 10:00 am-	Christmas Day Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mark's Annual Christmas Party

The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party is tonight. Please join us as we celebrate. **Please consider helping with the children's activities at the party for any amount of time. Starting at 5:00 pm, we will be decorating the Christmas tree and making gingerbread houses. We will sing several songs after the meal. Please contact Celeste in advance or just come and help.**



Advent Devotions on YouTube

Each week, as we make our way through Advent, you will find YouTube devotions as well as written reflections. Check out our YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/@SaintMarks-stl>

Online Giving at St. Mark's

Thank you so much for your desire to support the ministry here at St. Mark's! If you would like to give online, simply scan the QR code below using the camera on your smart phone to visit our online giving platform.

Your generosity is a blessing!



We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially the Anderson family, Anne Benson, Yulia Borjte, Steve Chamberlin, Alicia Crowe, Tom Gard, Sue Garrett, Mark Godfrey, Yaz Hernández and their extended family, Denise Huber, Margaret and Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jane Kozielec and Allen, Debbie Kramer, Richard Liermann, Stephanie Maass, Penny McCullough, Beverly (Kocot) Meyers, Donna Musgrave, Betty Orlando, Kristen Patterson, Barbara Raedeke, Jennifer Salci and her parents, Scott Schmidt, Cheryl Schulz, Lois Schubert, Rick Schubert, Logan Smith, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Lou Swallow, Scott Thomas, Bill Trafka, Casey Tyler, Dominic Walker, Roy Watts, David and Doris Westfall, The White Family, Susan Winfrey, The Workman Family, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug and Fritz.

We pray for those who have died especially William Eifrig.

We pray for those serving in the armed forces, especially Jesse Foy, Robert McCarthy, Brandon George, Jon Moore, Paul Malabar, Logan Smith.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4714 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109

314/832-3588

revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org

www.saintmarks-stl.org

parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson	Bishop of MO	Barbara Raedeke	Organist and Choir Director
The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse	Rector	Celeste Kocot	Youth Christian Formation
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong	Deacon	Melissa Engle	Parish Administrator
The Rev. Dr. Teresa K.M. Danieleley	Priest Associate		