

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024 YEAR C



Prelude

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Wilbur Held (1914-2015) © 1959 Concordia Publishing
Flor Peeters (1903-1986) © 1966 C.F. Peters**

Opening Hymn 57 “Lo! He comes, with clouds descending” *Blue 1982 Hymnal*

Blessing of the Advent Wreath & Lighting of the Candles

Presider: Ever loving God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples; he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us; he is the Savior of every nation. O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you. Bless us and our advent wreath.

As the First Advent Candles is lighted

(In unison) May the light that shines forth illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas; may the light that shines forth illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child. We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

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” S100 Hurd *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.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

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

Psalm 25:1-9 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

see next page

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

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

Sequence Hymn LEVAS 14 "Soon and very soon"

see insert

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Luke
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

The Homily

The Rev. Michael Dunnington

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 As the church worldwide celebrates the beginning of its new year, let us prepare our hearts and minds with the larger community of which we are a part, praying, Come, O Lord, ***“we put our trust in you.”***

For the church throughout the world, that we be called to one discipleship with our many gifts;

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Michael, Teresa, Jerre, and Mandi our clergy, and for all the People of God;

In the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people and ministry of Trinity Episcopal Church in Hannibal;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Province of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Parroquia Santa Hilda in Trujillo Alto;

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

We give thanks on her birthday with Susan Goen. Let us pray, come, O Lord,
We put our trust in you.

For the leaders of the world, for their enlightenment of justice and peace, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, praying especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East; we pray that the leaders of this country have the wisdom and courage to legislate for peace and justice, serving the needs of all people; let us pray, come, O Lord,

We put our trust in you.

For all peoples of every race, nation and disposition; may your love so embrace us all, that its power overcomes our conflicts, defenses, and fears; let us pray, come, O Lord,
We put our trust in you.

For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for immigrants, refugees, and the homeless, and for the lonely and those in prison, let us pray, come, O Lord,
We put our trust in you.

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,
We put our trust in you.

For the dying and the dead and those who grieve, let us pray, come, O Lord,
We put our trust in you.

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

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Presider and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The 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*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

Text: Hymn 66

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An 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 God thanks and praise.***

Presider It is truly right, and a good and joyful thing that we gather to give you thanks, O Holy God, source of hope and goodness. You come to us in the gathered blue of a world in wait. You enter our time and hallow it. You come to the doorway of our heart and invite us to new life in you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Presider and People

Holy, Holy, Holy S124 Hurd

***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

We remember, O creator, from the dark blue of the firmament you ignited creation, you sparked light and life. Your spirit infused the whole world, having brooded over it, knowing it before it began.

You gave hope to a people lost in the darkness. Your promise to Abraham and Sarah was an invitation to bold journey. Your compassion in Solomon was the hope of a new order. In Jeremiah you reminded us that we are molded in your image. In Hosea you called us to a faithful relationship with you alone.

But we loved the darkness more than the light, we struggled to make our own future. We fought to establish our ways, at the expense of yours. We wantonly embraced everything that seemed to satisfy our deep longings.

But you came to us again as the light in Jesus your Christ. In his living you reminded us of your original intent for the cosmic order. In his dying you showed us the way of faithful existence. In his resurrection you promise us again that our journey with you is bound only by your love.

We give thanks that on the night he was given over to suffer and die, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to his friends and said, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Whenever you do this, remember me."

So also after they had eaten he took the cup of wine. He blessed you for it, and gave it to them and said, "This is the cup of the new order, my blood poured out for you and for the whole creation for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you do this, remember me."

Remembering all that Jesus was, and all that Jesus did, the cross and tomb, the resurrection's bright morning, the promise of a resurrection life, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

In Christ's name, we ask you again to send forth your spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on the entire creation. By your spirit, grant Christ's presence with us in the taking, breaking and giving of these simple things. By your spirit, make us one with all creation.

In your kingdom's coming in the blue darkness of our lives may we sense your presence. Help us to see you and to know you, to hear you and to follow you, never to be the same again because your light lives in us.

All this we ask in the name of our savior Jesus Christ. By Christ, in Christ, with Christ, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, we give you honor, praise and glory for ever and for ever more. **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

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 72 “Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes”

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Prayer after Communion

Presider and People

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. 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 WLP 721 “Signs of ending all around us”

see insert

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” David Johnson (1922-1987)

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ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Vicki Stegmann

Usher: Marilyn Wiethop

Greeter: Ellen Jeffery

Chalice: Susan Goen

Altar Guild: Tom Bradley

Livestream: Scott Thompson

Crucifer: Jonathan Robards

Godly Play: Jeffery

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent at St. Mark’s



The Season of Advent begins next today. Join us as we light the first Advent Candle in our Advent Wreath as we pray in anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-Us. Advent supplies including [Advent Wreath Prayers](#) and “Slow down, Quiet. It’s Advent” calendars will be available as of today on the credenza in the back of the church.

Choir Call



I’d like to invite anyone who enjoys singing but isn’t able to sing with the choir on a regular basis to join us for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and will sing for all the Sundays in Advent as well as the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. If you’d like to sing with us during Advent and/or for Christmas Eve, please be in touch with me (braedeke@aol.com). We would be delighted to have you join us!-Barbara

St Mark's Christmas Light Walk down Candy Cane Lane



This year's festive walk will be held on Saturday, December 7th. We will meet at 5:00pm at the Parish Hall for some pizza, then dress up warmly and walk together down Angel Alley and Candy Cane Lane. We will meet back afterwards for hot chocolate and cookies. There will be a signup in the Parish Hall. Please plan on bringing a small donation to cover the cost of the pizza, and make sure to put which pizza you prefer on the signup sheet; Cheese, Veggie, Gluten-free, or Pepperoni along with the number of people in your group. This is a fun family event, so you are welcome to invite friends to join us. For more information, please contact Margaret Hvatum. The sign-up in the Parish Hall.

St. Mark's Annual Christmas Party

The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party will take place on December 22nd at 5PM. Carols, a face painter, a buffet dinner, and load of good cheer will be on hand as we wait for a "special guest" to complete the festivities. \$15 Adults, \$8 Children over 5 years, \$50 family max. Once again, we'll be asking folks to help with the dessert and snacks table. We are also asking for volunteers for set-up and take down. Please see the signup sheets in the parish hall to RSVP and if you want to help out. You may also call/email to: 314-832-3588 / parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org . ***JUST ANNOUNCED-THERE WILL BE A FACE PAINTER HERE FROM 5-6PM**

Mandi Rice Ordination

Please join the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson as he ordains Mandi Rice to the Sacred order of Priests. This will take place on Saturday, December 7th, 3:00p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Kirkwood. We invite all to attend.

Special Presentation on Women in the Episcopal Church

On December 15, the Rev. Dr. Teresa Danielewicz will offer a presentation after worship on her Doctoral Thesis at Eden Theological Seminary (2018) - "Towards a Feminist Ecclesiology in the Episcopal Church: Three Generations of Women Clergy as Agents of Emancipatory Transformation." While this presentation grew out of the ECW luncheon with the Rev. Mandi Rice, all are welcome to attend. If you wish to read the thesis in advance, request it in advance by emailing Teresa at tkmithen@gmail.com.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for Michael, Teresa, Jerre, and Mandi 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 Hannibal;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Province of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Parroquia Santa Hilda in Trujillo Alto; **We pray** for our Jubilee Ministry partner Isaiah 58 Ministries, and our ministry partner Doorways Interfaith Housing;

We pray for those who are ill, in trouble or distress of any kind, especially the Anderson family, Lynn Kiamie Bianchini, Jim Blum, Cherie Blumenkamp, Tom Bradley, Bruce Bramoweth & family, Raphael Bundage, Yulia Borjte, Joan Cap, Steve Chamberlin, Janet Chance, Alicia Crowe, John and Carol Dequire and Sophia, Kayla Deguire, Donna Duffy, The Rev. Michael Dunnington, Candace Farmer, Mary Carol Fischer, Don Frank, Carol Garbs, Jeanne Gardener, Sue and Ty Garrett, Robin Harris, Allan Harvard, Anne Hennig, Rob Heritage, Sherry Hicks and family, Carol Hohenberger and her mission team, Margaret and Sandy Hvatum and their family, Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jodi Keuney, Jane Koziolec, Richard Liermann, Kathy Lynch, Guy Medley, Donna Musgrave, Francis Neuner, Nina Olmsted, Betty Orlando, Scott Schmidt, Joan Schneider, Becky Schroeder, Cheryl Schulz, Blair Schrautemeier, Rick Schubert, Mitchell and Tracy Shelton, Jeanette Swallow, Bonnie Tesson, Scott Thomas, Kathy Tracy and family, Marilyn Wiethop, Justin and Lindsay Williams, Hulene Woody, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Leo, Jim.

We give thanks on her birthday with Susan Goen.

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

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson	Bishop of MO	Barbara Raedeke	Organist and Choir Director
The Rev. Michael Dunnington	Interim Priest in Charge	Celeste Kocot	Youth Christian
The Rev. Jerre Birdsong	Deacon	Melissa Engle	Parish Administrator
The Rev. Dr. Teresa K.M. Danielewicz	Priest Associate	The Rev. Mandi Rice	Transitional Deacon

Sequence Hymn "Soon and very soon" *From Lift Every Voice and Sing*



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____



1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King;



_____ Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, _____ we're goin' to see the King!



_____ Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

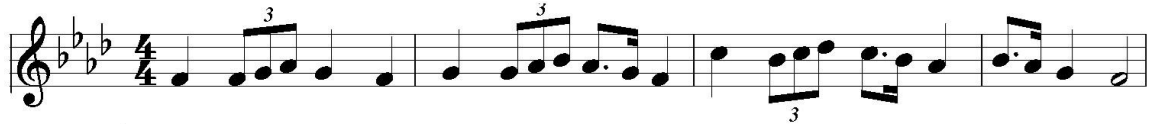


jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Words: Andrae Crouch (b. 1942) Music: Andrae Crouch © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP

Closing Hymn WLP 721 “Signs of ending all around us”

Ton-y-Botel



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - ings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O³ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams.

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Feed My People Wish List

This year Feed My People is sponsoring a Christmas Wish List program for their clients. The list includes many gift ideas for children, teenagers, adults and seniors. We are asking for no clothing but gift items such as toys, books, household items, blankets, sheets, cookware items and anything that you enjoy. If you would like to participate, please bring your UNWRAPPED gift(s) to St. Mark's no later than Sunday, December 8th. Contact Marti Robards for more information or to donate. There will be a bin in the Parish Hall for items collected.