

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 YEAR A



Prelude "Savior of the Nations, Come" (Based on Hymn 54)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Opening Hymn 59 "Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"

Blue 1982 Hymnal

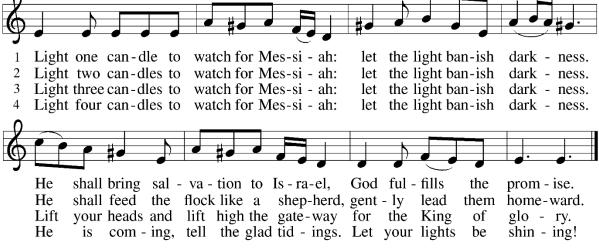
Blessing of the Advent Wreath & Lighting of the Candles

{ Forsyth Family (Jared, Selina, James, Ethan)}

Leader: Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice that in all creation and among every people your peace may be established and your joy abound; through Jesus our Deliverer. Amen.

As the First and Second Advent Candles are lit Verse 2 is sung in unison.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



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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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the

meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 see next page

The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn WLP 723 "Isaiah the prophet has written of old" see page 14

TONE II

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the King your justice, / O God, *

2 That he may rule your people / right-eously *

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the / people, *

4 He shall defend the needy among the / people; *

5 He shall live as long as the sun and / moon endure, *

6 He shall come down like rain upon the / mown field, *

7 In his time shall the righteous / flourish; *

18 Blessed be the Lord GoD, the God of / Israel, *

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for- / ever! *

Deus, judicium

and your righteousness to the / King's Son;

and the poor / with jus-tice;

and the little hills bring / right-eous-ness.

he shall rescue the poor and crush / the op-pressor.

from one generation / to an-other.

like showers that wa- / ter the earth.

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall / be no more.

who alone does / won-drous deeds!

and may all the earth be filled with his glory. A- / men. Amen.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who will lead us with joy in the light of God's glory, praying, "Come, O Lord, and save us."

For the church throughout the world, that we may receive the mercy and righteousness that come from you;

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 DeSoto;

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury and for The Church of Bangladesh;

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Mision San Gabriel Arcangel in Humacao;

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

We give thanks on their birthdays with Tor Hvatum, Otto Schoenberg, Carol Hohenberger, Amos Odle, Rita Diekemper and James Borowiak. 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 seek peace and justice and equity for all your children, let us pray, *Come, O Lord, and save us.*

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; we pray especially for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza; let us pray,

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for the homeless, immigrants and refugees, for all those who live in fear of separation of their homes and families, 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 and all those who work in public service; 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

"Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth"

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

© 1970 Oxford University Press

Text: St. Ambrose (340-397)

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth:

Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still

The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to all displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained with virgin honour all unstained;

The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free,

Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost forevermore.

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 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 onus.

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 hope for the dawn, Here the Word is made flesh, and you who rest 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 67 "Comfort, comfort ye my people" 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 Christ, with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus and for gathering us into the mystery of your Advent: a time of waiting, watching, and expectation. Send us now into the world presence in all things at all times; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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 76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Blue 1982 Hymnal

Dismissal

Presider Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. hope, carrying peace,

living in love, and radiating joy.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

(Based on Hymn 67)

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

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP

Lector: Margaret Hvatum Usher: Marilyn Wiethop Greeter: Marti Robards

Altar Guild: Ellen Jeffery Livestream: Scott Thompson

Crucifer: Jonathan Robards Chalice: Greg Diekemper/Jonathan Robards

Godly Play: Jeffery Coffee Hour: Scott Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent at St. Mark's



The Season of Advent has begun. Join us as we light the second Advent Candle in our Advent Wreath as we pray in anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-Us. Advent supplies including a weekly by Delaney and her colleagues, weekly prayers and "Slow down. Quiet

devotion written by Delaney and her colleagues, weekly prayers and "Slow down, Quiet. It's Advent" calendars are available 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 Annual Christmas Party



The Annual St. Mark's Christmas Party will take place on December 21st at 5PM. Carols, 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. Please see the signup sheets in the parish hall to RSVP and to bring a dessert. You may also call/email to: 314-832-3588 /

parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org.

Christmas Services

Please join us for our Christmas Services.

Wednesday, December 24th 5:00pm- Family Worship

Wednesday, December 24th 10:30 pm- Choral Worship

Thursday, December 25th 10:00 am- Christmas Day Service

Peace Meal

We need St Mark's volunteers at the Peace Meal at St John's Church on December 13th. We need volunteers for the first afternoon shift for cooking and the 2nd shift to serve and clean up. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please notify Marti Robards or Diane Nienkemper if you would like to help.

Christmas Decorations and St. Cecilia Music Fund



Each year at Christmas, we fill the nave with flowers, greens, and songs. If you would like to join in the joy of the season by supporting the Christmas Decorations or St. Cecelia Music Fund in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office along with

payment by noon, Wednesday December 17th. You may also give online at Tithley.com. Just go to our website https://www.saintmarks-stl.org/ and click on the DONATE button at the bottom of the homepage (be sure to designate your donation to the "Landscape/Flowers Fund" or "Music Fund" using the drop-down menu and call the office with the names of those you wish to honor in the Christmas leaflets). Forms may be found in the bulletin and at the back of the church; they may be returned via the office or offering plate.



FEED MY PEOPLE GIVING TREE

St Mark's would like to support Feed My People's Giving Tree program this Christmas. We would provide unwrapped gifts for families to choose for their Christmas gifts. Suggested items include Gift Cards, housewares, blankets, socks, books, dolls, toys, stuffed animals, bedding sets, sports items, teenage items, board games, toy cars, and craft kits. They would prefer items by December 14th so families have time to shop. Thank you so much.

Coffee Hours in December

Join Delaney+ in December for coffee hours around the neighborhood. Stop by for a few minutes or an hour to spend time together, share what's on your mind, and grow in relationship. Delaney+ will be at the following coffee shops:

Thursday, December 11 10-11:30am Knead Bakehouse + Provisions 3467 S Hampton Ave

Wednesday, December 17 10-11:30am Espresso Yourself Coffee & Café 5351 Devonshire Ave

Sequence Hymn WLP 723 "Isaiah the prophet has written of old"



WORDS: Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931) ©1982The Hymn Society MUSIC: Alice Parker; Robert Shaw; Lawson Gould ©1961 Lawson Gould



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND THE ST. CECELIA MUSIC **FUND**

I/we enclose our donation of \$	for
Christmas Flowers and Greens and/or	_
The St. Cecelia Music Fund for St. Mark's Church.	
Please list my/our donation as given to the Glory of God and:	
In Honor of:	
Or	
In Memory of:	
Or	
In Thanksgiving for:	
By	
(Please write your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.)	
Please bring this form with your donation to church, or send to the church office	by noon on
December 17th. You may also give online at Tithley.com. (Be sure to designate yo	
to the category "Landscaping and Flowers" or "Music Fund".) Be sure to email office with the names of those you wish to honor in the Christmas leaflets by no	
19th.	
Please designate my donation to:	

Contributions to the "Christmas Decorations" will pay for decorations for Christmas flowers and greens. Parishioners who choose to do so may make a donation to "The St. Cecelia Music Fund" to support special music during our services.

□Christmas Greens & Flowers ☐ The St. Cecelia Music Fund

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, Michael Dunnington, Tom Gard, Sue Garrett, Mark Godfrey, Yaz Hernández and their extended family, Denise Huber, Margaret and Tor Hvatum, Doug Jeffery, Jane Kozielec and Allen, 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, The White Family, Susan Winfrey, The Workman Family, Walter Zimmerman, Eric, Elizabeth, Marian, Ted, Karen, Larry, Doug and Fritz.

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

www.saintmarks-stl.org

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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. Danieley Priest Associate

314/832-3588