

ADVENT 2023



*Advent is a short season of waiting in darkness and longing for
the light; thoughtful repentance and pregnant expectation;
remember, savoring, and hoping for God's coming.*

Service of Word and Sacrament ADVENT 1 *December 3, 2023*

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone: (860) 633 - 1188

Email: ChurchOffice@SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

Website: www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LutheranChurchofStMark

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*We gather in the name of the Father and the ✝ Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*CONFESSION

As we wait and watch for the promised Messiah, let us confess our sins.

Please kneel or sit for the confession.

A petition for confession will be offered by the pastor. After each petition a time of silence will be kept for self-examination and silent confession. Each petition will end with the responsive Kyrie.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy and hear us.**

Hear us, O God, as we confess those times this past week when our thoughts have not been true or honorable, just or pure.

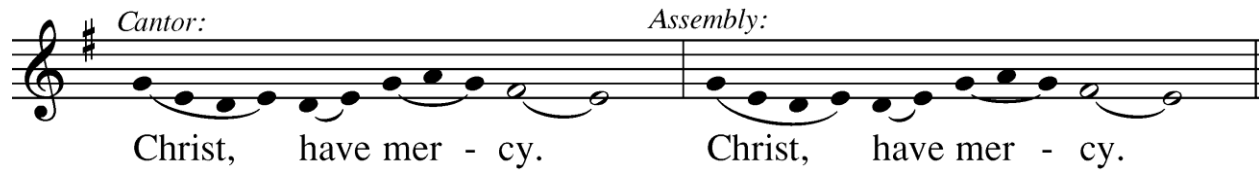
Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8



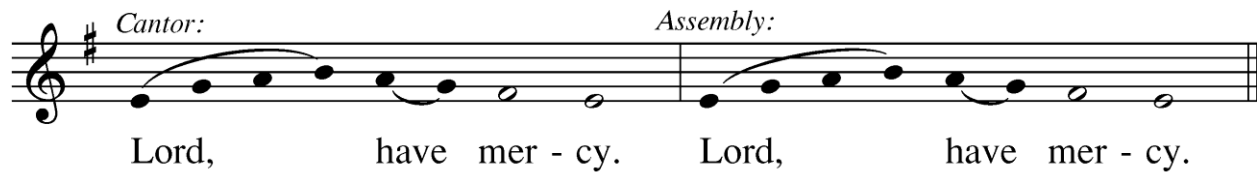
Hear us, O God, as we confess those times this past week when our words did not glorify you or respect those with whom we interacted.

No one can tame the tongue—a restless evil. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. James 3:8-10

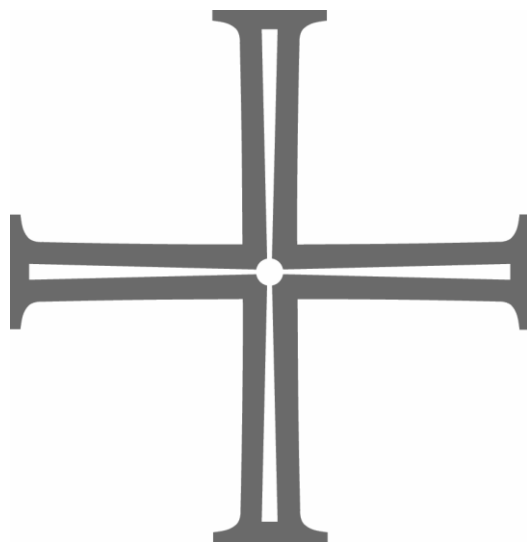


Hear us, O God, as we confess those times this past week when our actions have lacked the compassion and mercy for others that we seek from you.

‘Which of these, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said, ‘Go and do likewise.’ Luke 10:36, 37

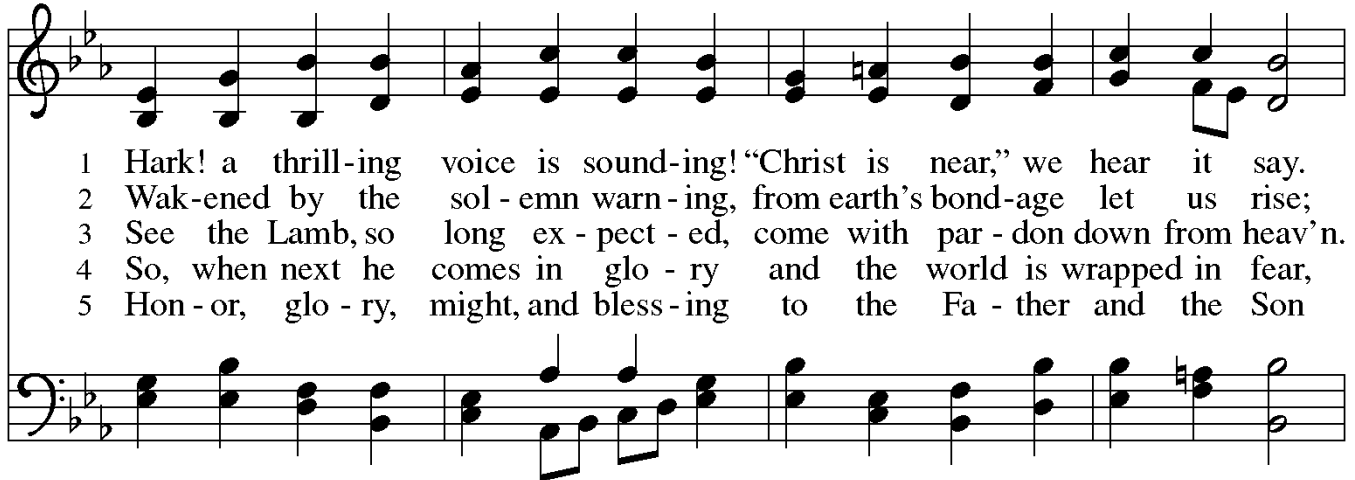


My brothers and sisters, *the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23)* Remembering then God’s great faithfulness, trust the promise of your baptism and know that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

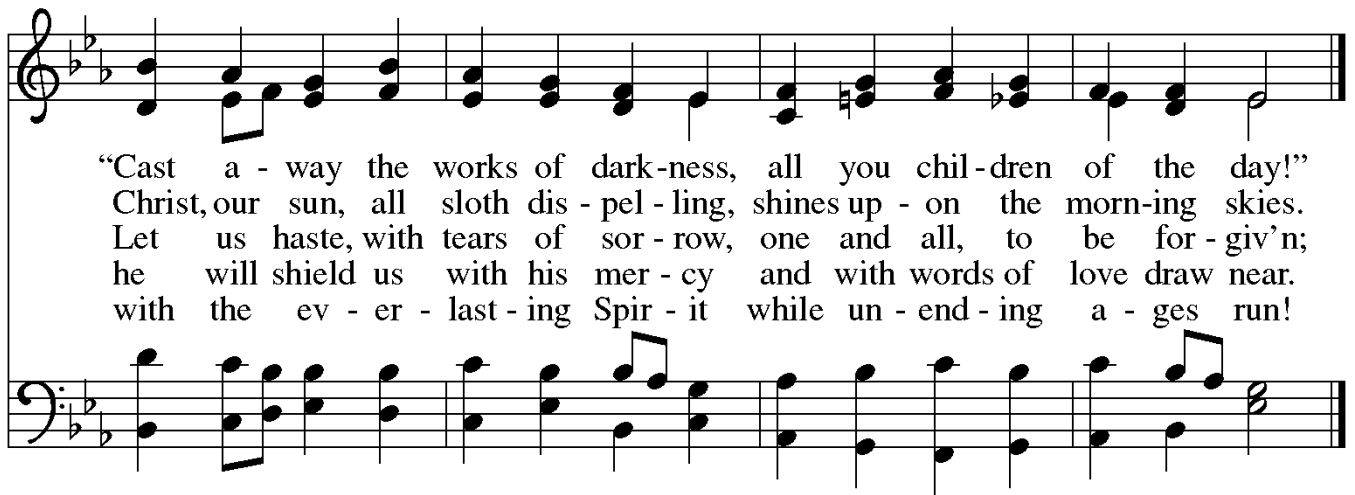


*GATHERING HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

As the candle is lit, a brief reading that corresponds with this week's banner is read.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah:

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

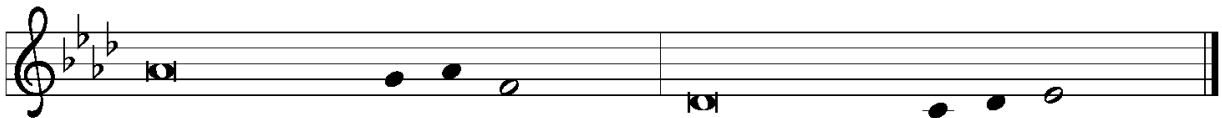
80:1-7, 17-19

*The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each **R**.*

Refrain



Tone



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph [|] like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- [|] on the cherubim.
- ²**In 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.
- ⁴**O LORD [|] God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your [|] people pray? R
- ⁵You have fed them with the [|] bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of [|] tears to drink.
- ⁶**You 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.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at [|] your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong [|] for yourself. R
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- [|] way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- [|] on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD [|] God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we [|] shall be saved. R

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! We a - wait the new born king!

O E - man - uel Lord and Sav - ior bring your love and peace to us.

O E - man - uel joy of all the nat - ions come and save _ us!

A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! We a - wait the new-born king!

arr. Tyler Boyle, Daphne Burt and Caroline Henry Henry T. Smart & James Montgomery

GOSPEL READING

MARK 13:24-27

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Awake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

ELW 436

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joice - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe.

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 THE PEOPLE

*The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**"*
*The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul O. Manz
(1919-2009)

*SUNG OFFERTORY

Advent Create in Me

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart oh God, and send a - new your Spir - it true. Fill up my heart with peace and grace and let me see you face to face. Re - store to me the bless - ings of your love, And lift me up with joy from a - bove.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes tied across bar lines. The final note of the last line is a double bar line.

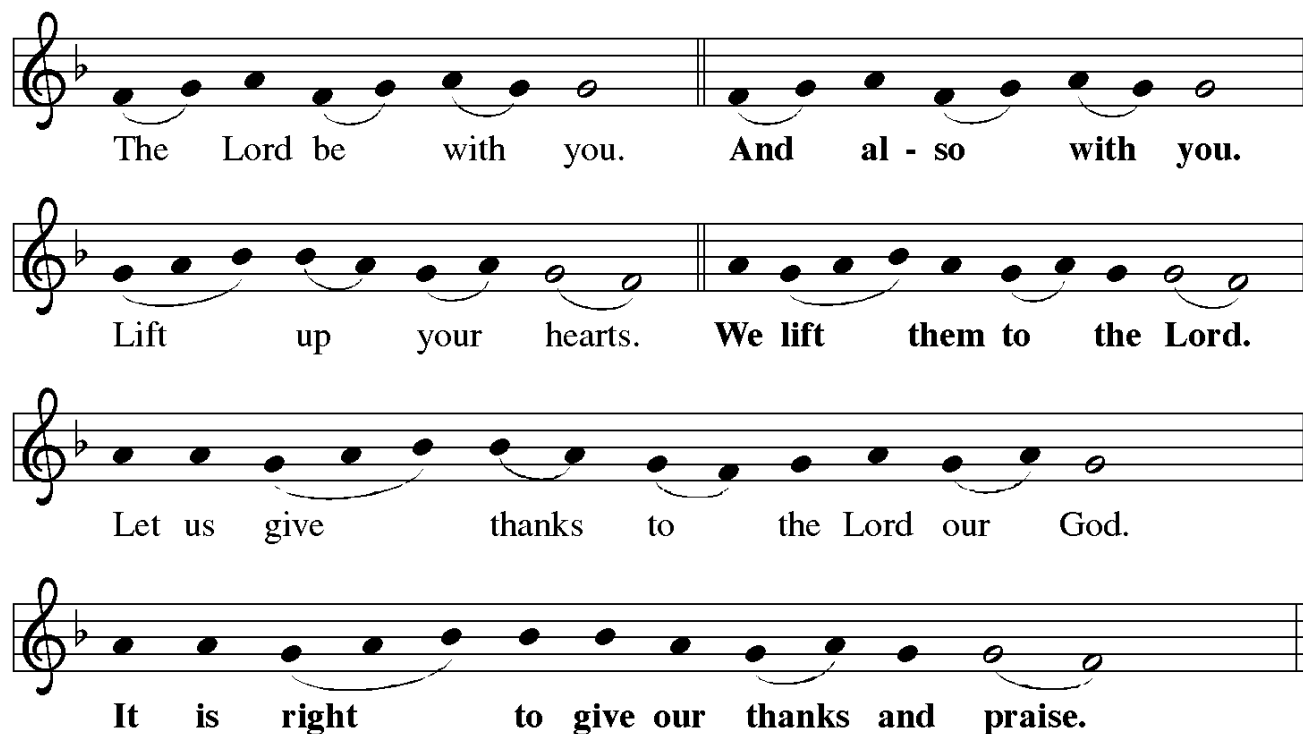
Cre - ate in me a clean heart oh God,
and send a - new your Spir - it true.
Fill up my heart with peace and grace
and let me see you face to face.
Re - store to me the bless - ings of your love,
And lift me up with joy from a - bove.

Arr. Daphne Burt

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

*PREFACE DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

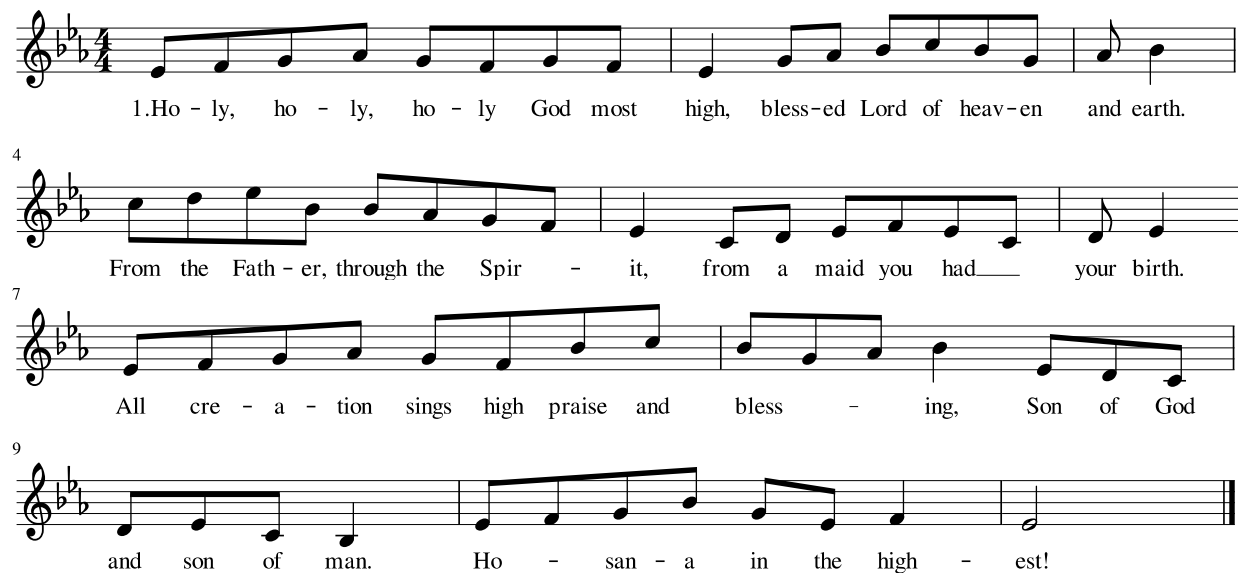
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

SANCTUS



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God most high, bless-ed Lord of heav-en and earth.

4 From the Fath - er, through the Spir - it, from a maid you had your birth.

7 All cre - a - tion sings high praise and bless - ing, Son of God

9 and son of man. Ho - san - a in the high - est!

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you... mystery of faith:

O Christ, you are the splendor of life everlasting:

We laud your death and resurrection, and await your return in glory.

Blessed are you... feast shall never end.

Amen. Come, O precious Ransom, come!

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

With boldness and confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

*COMMUNION INVITATION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good. **The Lord is good indeed.**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

Cantor:

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

Assembly:

take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have

Assembly:

mer - cy on us. grant us peace, grant us peace.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

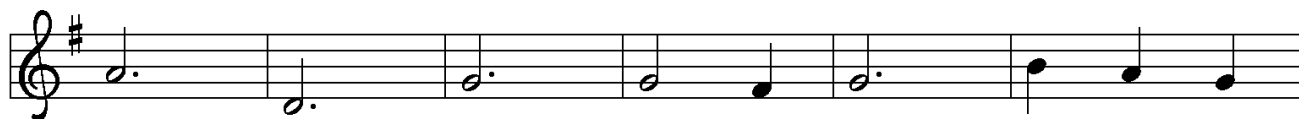


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

For those on zoom or not receiving the sacrament.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**



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



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

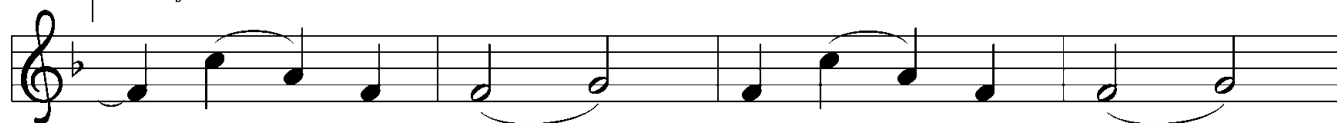


soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



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

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Dave Taylor
in celebration of grandson Leo's 4th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY is the last day to order Christmas poinsettias.**
- **There is no bible study today.** Bible Study returns next Sunday, December 10 at 6:00pm.
- Making Spirits Bright!! You can help shine the light of God's love into someone's life this Advent. **On Sunday December 10th, we'll be putting together 'Christmas Joy' bags that will be for anyone coming into St. Mark for our community groups or other activities.** We've done this previously and heard stories of people being touched by just a small bag of Christmas Joy. **Please sign up on the narthex board if you can donate items for the bags, such as wrapped candy canes, Hershey kisses. etc. We're also looking to re-gift small ornaments (one per bag) rather than buying new ones. So, if you have any ornaments that you'd like to donate, then please bring them on the 10th or put them in the Christmas Joy box in the narthex.** Additionally, we'll be writing Christmas cards to put in the bags. This will be a true feel-good and let your light shine fellowship time after service, so please come and help make some spirits bright!! Contact Jan Frick for more information.
- **Jumpstart your holiday and join us Monday, December 4th at 7:00pm for the Women's Party & Yankee Swap at the Hilliard's house and the Men's Revels at Dave Taylor's house!** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- **The next Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, December 21 at 12:00pm (note the time change!).** Sweet Jean's Café, 13 N. Main Street, East Hampton, CT. **Please contact Elaine today if you plan to attend.**
- **During the month of December: Buy a "Bloomin' for Good Bouquet" at Stop & Shop, 215 Glastonbury Blvd., and \$1 will go to the St. Mark Backpack Program!** We are so excited to share that the St. Mark Backpack Program has once again been selected to benefit from Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities they serve. For the month of December, a \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" from the Stop & Shop at 215 Glastonbury Blvd. will brighten a home or make someone's day while also directing a \$1 donation to the Backpack Program. This is a great way to broaden awareness in the local community and raise donations for our organization to help fight hunger. Let's get

started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the more we can raise!

- **Holiday Presents for CCGC:** The Community Child Guidance Clinic (CCGC) school in Manchester CT has a census of 34 students between the ages of 3–15 that are unable to thrive in a traditional classroom setting. We are collecting money to purchase holiday gifts for them. This year they have requested art supplies for all of the students. These gifts have been chosen to help keep the students focused during their holiday vacation. Please give as you are able by selecting peace cranes in amounts of your choice from the Christmas tree on the table in the entranceway and include the money in your collection envelope with the notation CCGC.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, December 3	9:00am	1 st Sunday of Advent Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by GF & Friends
	4:00pm	Ekklesia Ballet
Monday, December 4	7:00pm	Women's Christmas Party
	7:00pm	Men's Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 5	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
	10:00am	Pericope & Pastors' Conference
Thursday, December 7	5:45pm	Brown Bag Supper
	6:30pm	Vespers
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 10	9:00am	2 nd Sunday of Advent Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Dottie's Group
	6:00pm	Bible Study



www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America