

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone: (860) 633-1188

Email: churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 14, 2025

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

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

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn

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

*CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

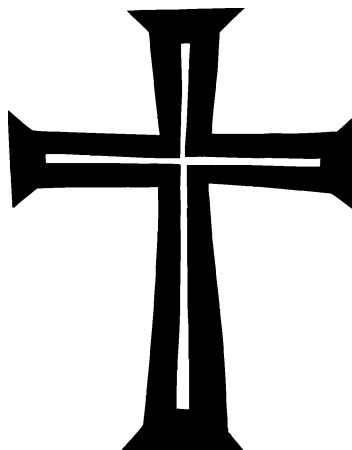
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We have trusted earthly powers and human authority. We grow fearful and cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors and trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us and bring your mercy to live in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. Receive the grace and forgiveness of God, Father, ✠Son and Holy Spirit, trusting that the day of the Messiah draws near. **Amen**





1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*GREETING

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.**

*KYRIE

(Tune: *Lo how a rose e'er blooming*)

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of nine staves of music, alternating between Cantor and People parts. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The lyrics are: "In peace let us pray to the Lo - rd: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. In peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. For peace in all the world, for well - be - ing in the church of Go - d: Lo - - rd Have mer - cy ____ For this ho - ly house and for all who wor - ship: Lo - - rd have mer cy. help, save, and com - fort us, O gra - cious Go - d. A - - men A - - men ____".

Cantor: In peace let us pray to the Lo - rd: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. In peace from a -

People: bove, and for our sal - va - tion: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. For peace in

Cantor: all the world, for well - be - ing in the church of Go - d: Lo - -

People: rd Have mer - cy ____ For this ho - ly house and for all

Cantor: who wor - ship: Lo - - rd have mer cy. help, save, and com - fort us,

People: O gra - cious Go - d. A - - men A - - men ____

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

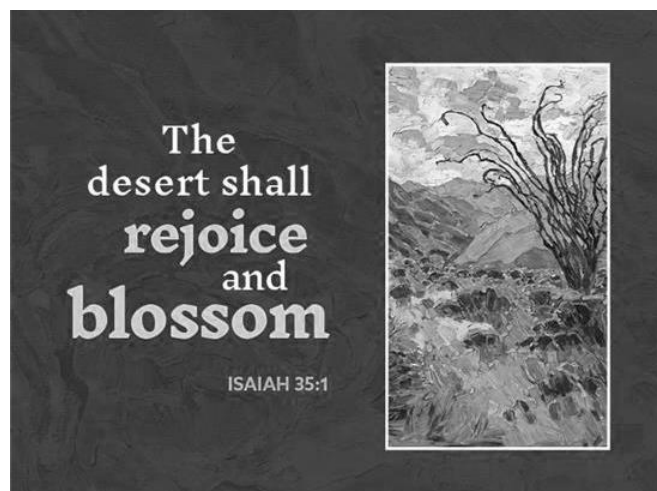
ISAIAH 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

A reading from Isaiah:

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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



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

Refrain



Tone



⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | Lord their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The Lord sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed**
down;

the Lord | loves the righteous. R

⁹ The Lord cares | for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The Lord shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING

JAMES 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate
patience rather than discontent.*

A reading from James:

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing refrain. Choir will sing verse. All repeat refrain.



Music: Based on VENI EMMANUEL, Stephen Pishner, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

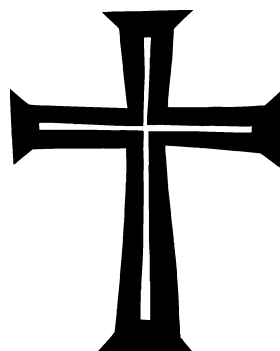
² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples

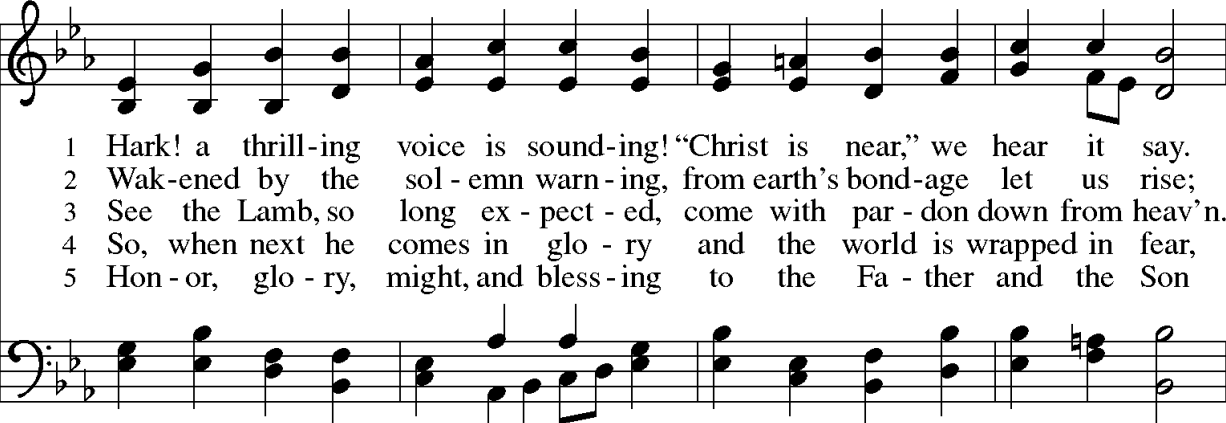
³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

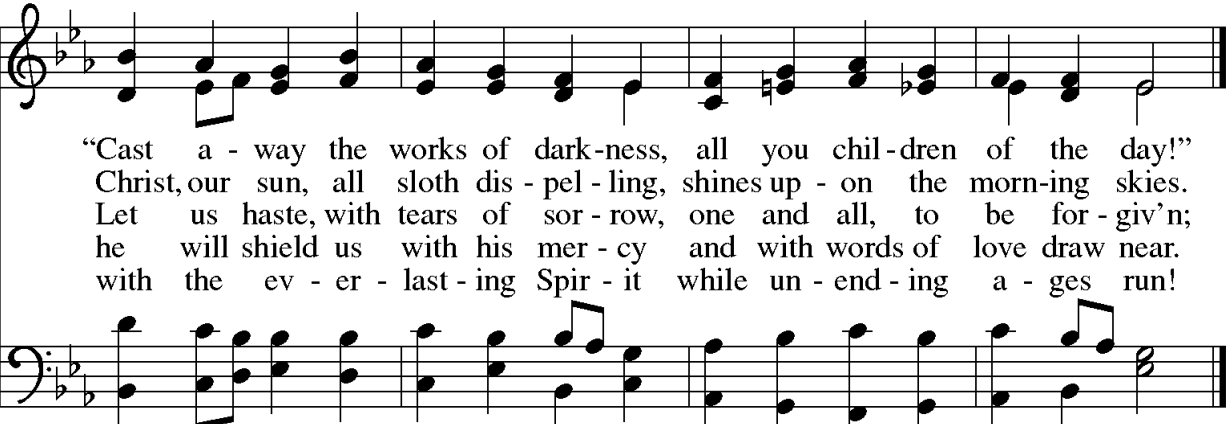
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON



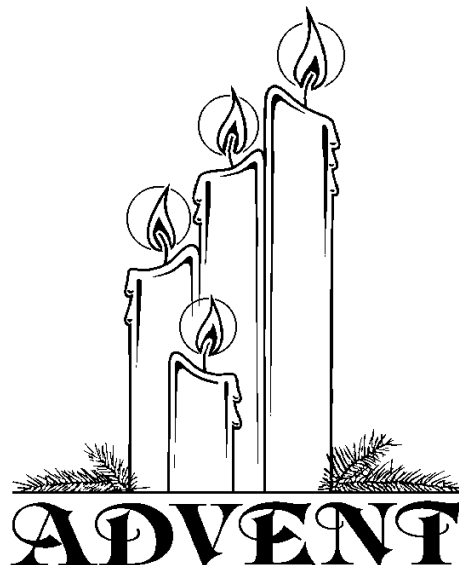


1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,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



*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 *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* arr. Jonathan
(Text and tune can be found at ELW 254) Strommen Campbell

*SUNG OFFERTORY

Create in me (Tune: *O come, O come Emmanuel*)

$\text{♩} = 120$

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.

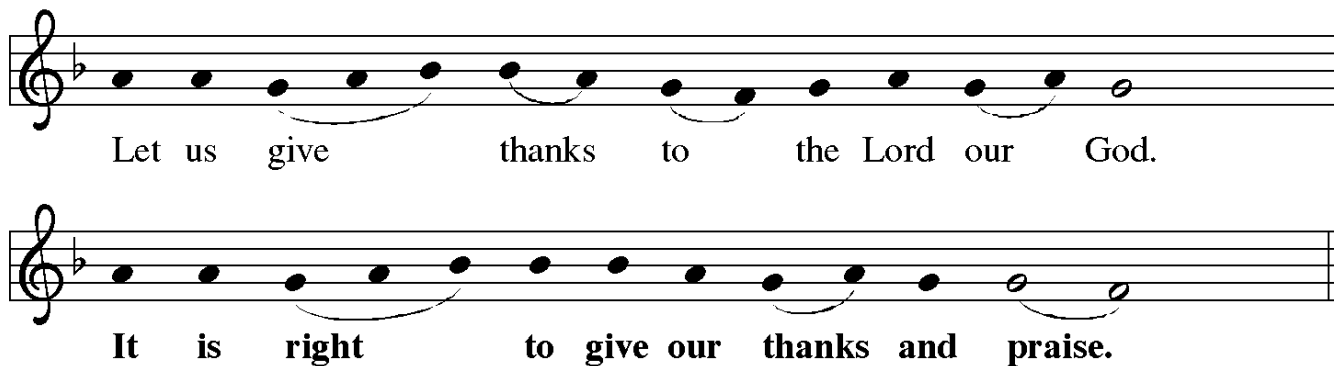
Arr. Daphne Burt

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the
world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

*PREFACE DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

SANCTUS

(Tune: *Of the Father's love begotten*)

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

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

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

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

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

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:

1., 2., 3. *Assembly:*



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

4. *Assembly:*



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

There is a longing in our hearts

ACS 1078

Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -




veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our




hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole-ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep-est night. We call you; we wait:

Refrain



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

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. When 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, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

He came down

ELW 253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! setting by Paul Bouman

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by the Bernie & Andrea Clark
 in celebration of granddaughter Marina's 4th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us after worship today to help create Christmas Joy Totes for our community groups.**
- **Please note that Bible Study has been cancelled for the remainder of December.** May this free up time to enjoy this Advent season with activities that enrich your Christmas spirit. May your get-togethers with family and friends and/or going to a Christmas concert and a play, all be a blessing to you. **We will continue with Season 2 of 'The Chosen' on Sunday, January 11th.**
- **Join us for Advent Weekday Prayer Offices: Matins via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00am. Soup & Bread & Advent Activities on Wednesdays at 6:00pm, followed by in-person and Zoom Evening Prayer at 7:00pm.**
- **The Women's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be Tuesday December 16th, 7:00pm, at Betsy Crayton's home, 129 Johnny Cake Lane, Glastonbury.** All women are invited. Bring something wrapped, preferably not new, to put under the tree, and something yummy for the table, and be prepared for hilarity and great conversation. Sign up on the bulletin board! Hope to see you there.
- **The Men's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be Tuesday, December 16th, 7:00pm at the Dave Taylor's home, 22 Farmstead Road, East Hartford.** All guests are asked to bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less, along with a snack, dessert or beverage.

- The next **Lunch Bunch** will be **Thursday, December 18th, at 12:30pm**: Lakeside Bar & Grill, 81 N. Main Street, East Hampton, CT. Please bring a \$20-\$25 gift to exchange. **Please RSVP to Ellen Z. by tomorrow, December 15th.**
- **Gifts for CCGC**: The Community Child Guidance Clinic (CCGC) school in Manchester CT has a census of 41 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 that combine fun with a STEM (*science, technology, engineering, math*) or artistic emphasis. These gifts have been chosen to help keep the students focused during their holiday vacation. Please remove tags from peace cranes in the 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**.
- Please join us for the **L'Estro Armonico Christmas Concert at St. Mark! Saturday, December 20. Potluck at 4:00pm, Concert at 5:00pm**. Please sign up in the narthex to bring a dish for the potluck.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, December 14 | 9:00am | Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Amigos & Amigas and Christmas Joy Totes |
| Tuesday, December 16 | 9:00am 7:00pm | Matins via Zoom Women's & Men's Christmas Parities |
| Wednesday, December 17 | 6:00pm 7:00pm | Soup & Bread/Advent Activity Advent Evening Prayer (In-Person & Zoom) followed by Church Council |
| Thursday, December 18 | 12:30pm 7:00pm | Lunch Bunch Choir Rehearsal |
| Saturday, December 20 | 4:00pm 5:00pm | L'Estro Armonica Potluck L'Estro Armonica Christmas Concert followed by dessert |
| Sunday, December 21 | 9:00am | Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Amigos & Amigas |



www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>

Parts of the Liturgy and music used by permission and Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress License #SAS025154, One License # A-721348, & CCLI License # 3161225 and #20851450. Parts of the liturgy used by permission of Daphne Burt. All rights reserved.