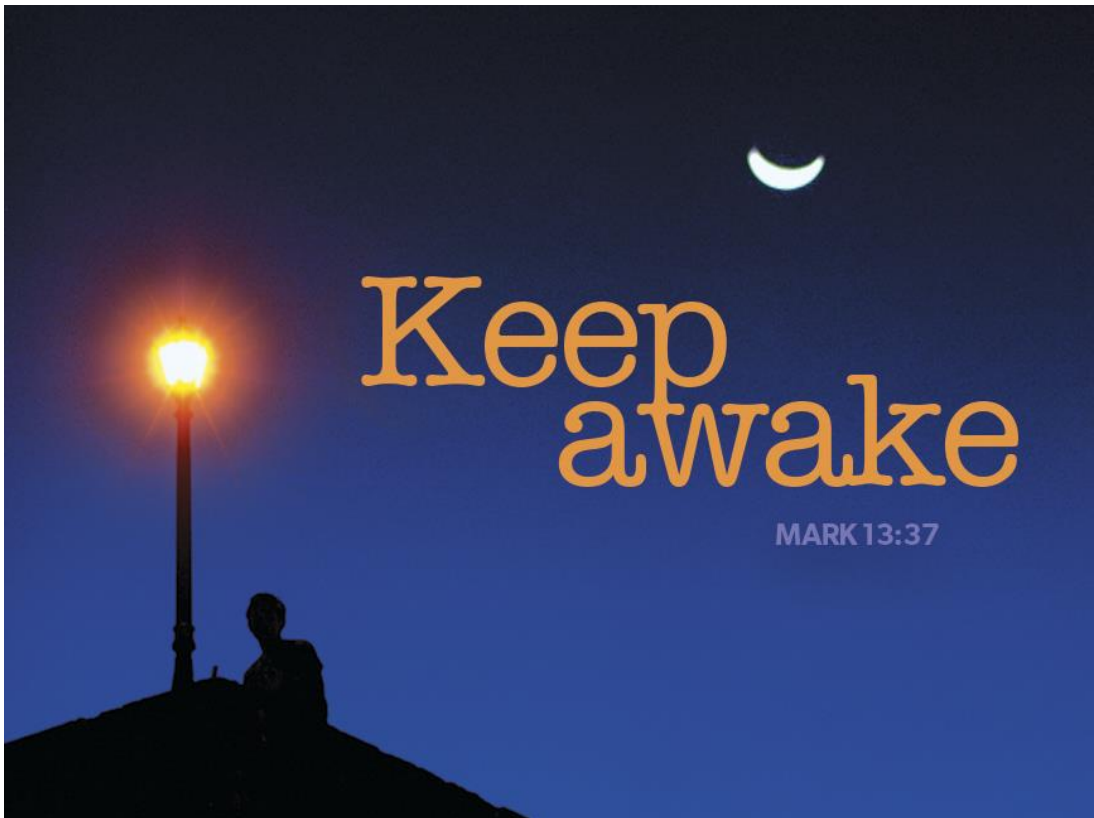


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY COMMUNION



December 3, 2023 ~ 10:00am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor
Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.org

+ *Congregation Please Stand if Able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - Savior of the Nations Come

Wayne L. Wold

+*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN - “Fling Wide the Door”**

ELW 259

1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.

that live by their true king's
commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his,
creator of the world,
our only strength for good.

2 He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and
friend,
and worship him with song
for saving us from wrong.

4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus
Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!

3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands

+**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN - “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW 240

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

+**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



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?**

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.**

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.**

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.

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. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+ GOSPEL - Mark 13:24-37

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

Pastor Brian

+HYMN OF THE DAY - "My Lord, What a Morning"

ELW 438

Refrain

- My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.
- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

+APOSTLES CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Charles Callahan

+OFFERTORY - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

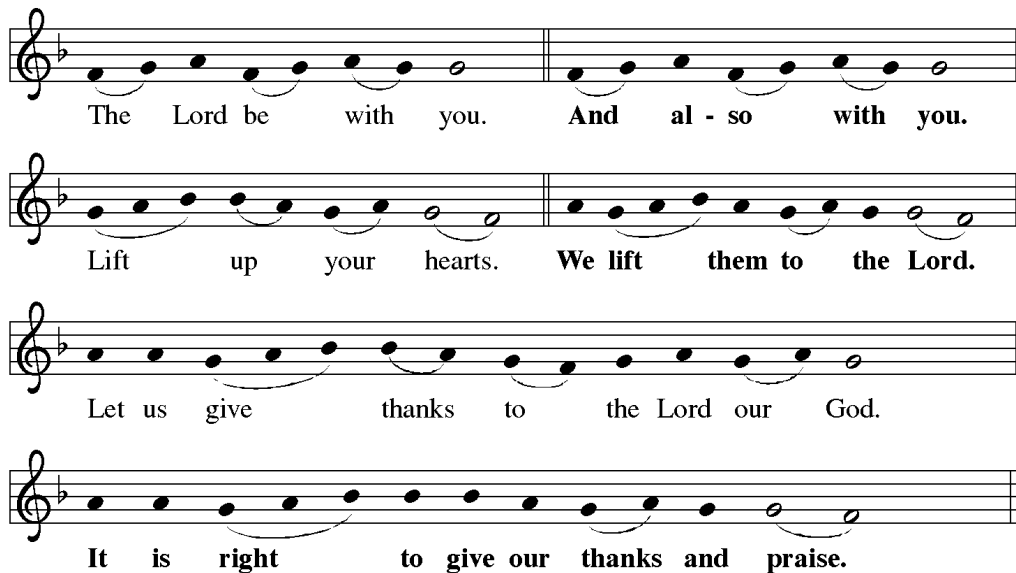
ELW 257

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
- Refrain*
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

+OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

+PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+ *SANCTUS*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE*

+*THE LORD'S PRAYER*

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, forever and ever. Amen

+*INVITATION TO COMMUNION*

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

+ LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

ELW 436

“I Received the Living God”

ELW 477

+ TABLE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+CLOSING HYMN - “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 536

1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we
meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound
you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

You may be seated during the postlude.

POSTLUDE - BESANÇON

Ronald A. Nelson