

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 4, 2022  
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

ENTRANCE HYMN *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton) (H 59)*

*Descant*



2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with 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,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath -- Advent 2: Hope**

*Reader 1:* Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath and look ahead in hope for the coming of the Reign of God.

*Two purple candles are lit*

*Reader 2:* A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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.

*Reader 1:* We pray for those for whom hope feels distant and faint, especially prisoners, the sick, those who are far from home, and those who have no homes to return to. We pray for those whose hope has failed, especially those who are having suicidal thoughts, those who have died by suicide, and their families.

*People:* **Gracious God, you have promised us that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us. Pour your love into our hearts, that we may bring hope to those who have no hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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.*

***S 102 Holy God (Archangel'sky) (BCP p. 356)***

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        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 Lessons

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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;

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

*Remain seated.*

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, \*  
    **and your righteousness to the King's Son;**  
<sup>2</sup>That he may rule your people righteously \*  
    **and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
    **and the little hills bring righteousness.**  
<sup>4</sup>He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
    **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
    **from one generation to another.**  
<sup>6</sup>He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
    **like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
    **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**  
<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
    **who alone does wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup>And blessed be his glorious Name forever, \*  
    **and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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";

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

    "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>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 God’s people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL HYMN** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Stuttgart) (H 66)*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

*All stand.*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>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.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>“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. <sup>12</sup>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.”

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

## THE SERMON -- The Rev. Suzanne Wade

### THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

*All stand.*

**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.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)

*All remain standing.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and *Alan and Gayle* our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For all on St. Mark's prayer list, and especially for Jim Derik, Jennifer Hurley, Anna Oliverson, Kate, Mike Dunn and family, Fran Fletcher, Marlene Marchilena, Carol Baily, Elizabeth, Amy & Paul Brady, Matt, Kathryn Read, Evie and her family Beth, Brendan and Corinne, Don Parsons, Leon Calitri

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.]**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

**St. Mark's Prayer for Mission**

**Lord God, we are your people.**

**You call us to serve you, to do your will.**

**Affirm us where we are.**

**Encourage and strengthen us to go beyond  
ourselves to take risks.**

**Lift our sights; enlighten our imaginations.**

**Open our hearts and minds to all that is new  
and changing around us.**

**Renew us, and by your grace, help us to be  
more than we have been before.**

**Enrich our personal lives.**

**Involve us in communities that gather in your  
name and so draw us into your larger vision.**

**Bring us into a common life together,  
seeing mission as a movement of faith,  
centered in your Holy Spirit,  
involving each one of us.**

**Let us rejoice and give thanks,  
praise your name, and glorify you, O Lord,**



now and forever. Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

# The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM (BCP p. 361)

### DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th) (H 380)*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
\*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</b>

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

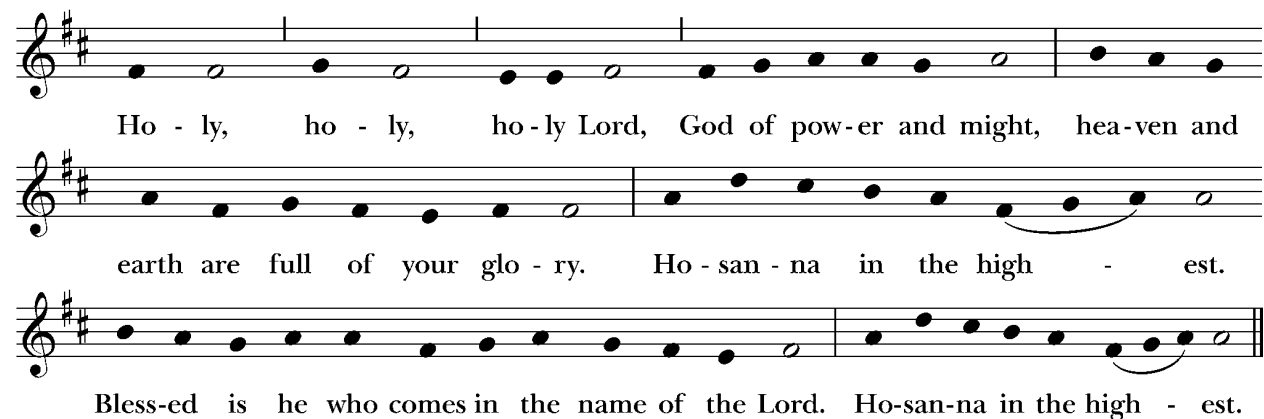
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS S 124 Holy, holy, holy (Hurd) (BCP p. 367)**

*Celebrant and People*



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

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember Christ's death,  
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

# The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM *S 161 Lamb of God (Hurd)* (BCP p. 364)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## DISTRIBUTION

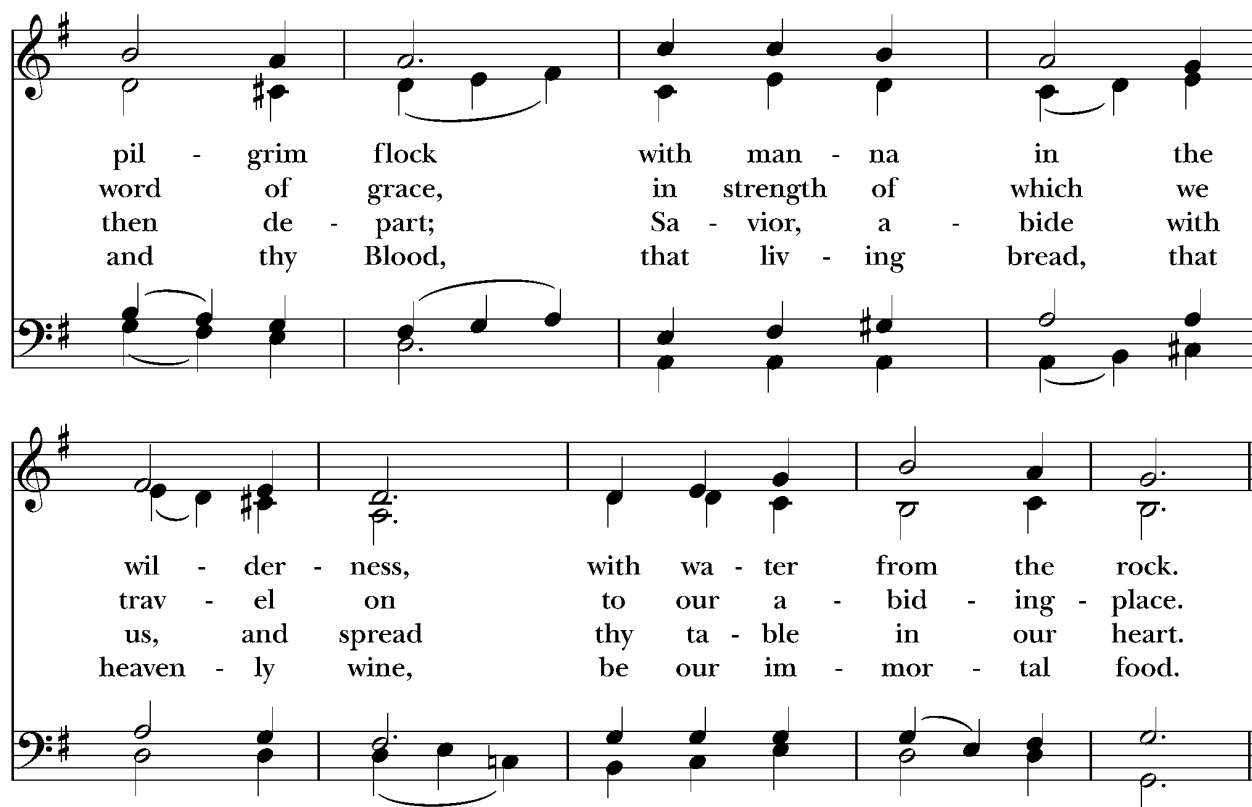
*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

COMMUNION HYMN *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless (St. Agnes)* (H 343)

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy



pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
 word of grace, in strength of which we  
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and  
 remain with you always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN *People, look East (Besançon Carol)* (WLP 724)



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

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### **Announcements**

#### **This Week's Schedule Dec. 4**

##### *Sunday*

9 a.m. St. Mark's Holy Eucharist  
11 a.m. Trinity Chapel Holy Eucharist  
5 p.m. Dinner Church

##### *Tuesday*

10-5 St. Mark's Office Open

##### *Wednesday*

10 a.m. Trinity Chapel Pastoral Care Team Meeting  
Noon Trinity Book Club Lunch Discussion -- Falling Upward by Richard Rohr  
1 p.m. Drop Off deadline @ Trinity for salad donations  
4-6 p.m. St. Paul's Soup Kitchen @ Eliot Presbyterian Church

#### **Christmas Services 2022**

##### *Saturday, Dec. 24*

4 p.m. St. Mark's Holy Eucharist  
4 p.m. Trinity Chapel Lessons & Carols

##### *Sunday, Dec. 25*

11 a.m. Trinity Chapel Holy Eucharist

**Pastoral Visits.** Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to the priest? Rev. Suzanne is available for pastoral visits via telephone, Zoom, and in-person (with COVID precautions). You can contact her about a visit via email at [revsuzannevade@gmail.com](mailto:revsuzannevade@gmail.com), phone/text at 508-472-9656

#### **Trinity Chapel (All are welcome to participate)**

Trinity Vestry Meeting Sunday, Dec. 11, after worship in Shepherd Hall.

**Trinity Chapel Prayer for Discernment:** Dear God, You have called us to do the work to assess our mission now and going forward. Grant us wisdom to gather the true vision of what we want - for our church and for the strength and talents that we envision for our priest. Give us compassion to clearly hear the words of our friends. Let us be kind to one another and speak with respect. May you grant us wisdom that we may ask the right questions. When we are uncertain,

give us the freedom of your spirit that we may see the path you wish for us. Hold us in your loving hands as we navigate a new and exciting endeavor. Grant this we pray, through Jesus Christ ~ Amen.

**Theology at the Tavern:** . Join us for an informal conversation about God, church, and whatever else you want to know! The next gathering is **TBA** at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley. You are welcome to join us for dinner, or just bring your questions and join us for a drink or snack.

**Trinity Book Club.** Our next book is *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Second Half of Life* by Richard Rohr. We will gather to discuss on **Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Noon (lunch provided).**

**Lura White School Snacks Collection:** Trinity Chapel is once again collecting nutritious snacks for students at the Lura White School in Shirley for in-school and take-home weekend brown bags. Donations granola bars, cheese crackers, 100 % juice boxes, boxes of raisins, snack packs of 100% fruit and similar nutritious snacks (not nuts or peanut butter, please!) can be left in the basket at the entranceway at Trinity.

**St. Paul's Soup Kitchen Salad:** Trinity parishioners supply the ingredients for salad when our collaboration partners at St. Mark's serve the meal at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Lowell. The next meal is **Wednesday, Dec. 7.** If you would like to be added to the online sign up, please email Rev. Suzanne at [revsuzanne@trinitychapel.org](mailto:revsuzanne@trinitychapel.org).

**Loaves & Fishes Soup Collection:** Trinity continues to collect donations of hearty soups for the Loaves & Fishes food pantry. Collection basket can be found in the foyer.

**Trinity Pastoral Care Team Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 7,** 10 a.m. in-person in Shepherd Hall with an available Zoom link. Join us as we share updates about members of Trinity Chapel in need of pastoral support and care this month.

**St. Mark's (All are welcome to participate)**

Next Vestry Meeting: Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, 7 p.m.

**Stewardship Campaign "Hope and Renewal" Update!**

In this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks and praise for the loving support St. Marks received this year through your pledges, contributions, time, and energy. As we enter 2023, we find abundant **hope** in worshiping, learning, and socializing together as a church family and community through programs like Dinner Church. There is also **renewal** as we reach out into our wider community through the Chocolate Festival, the community garden, and our programs which help feed others.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2023 began a few weeks ago and will continue through Sunday, December 4 (In-Gathering Sunday). Good news! Pledges received so far bring us to approximately 44% of the total goal of \$120K (up from the 2022 level of \$115K).



If you did pledge last year, please consider renewing your pledge with an increase of 5% to 10% to help us cover our increased expenses. If you haven't pledged in the past, prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2023.

**No need to wait!! Make your pledge now!! There are three easy ways to submit your pledge:**

- Send an email to our confidential pledge email address at [st.markspledges@gmail.com](mailto:st.markspledges@gmail.com).
- Fill out the pledge form found in the back of the church and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office at 75 Cold Spring Road, Westford, MA 01886.
- Set up a recurring gift via the "Give" button at <https://www.st-mark.org/give>.

Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness and generosity!

**For the Love of Erika Toy Collection.** For the Love of Erika is a toy drive started by Taylor Leong, with the help of Jessica and Madison Leong. Named in memory of Taylor's friend, Erika Gould, the toy drive's mission is to spread smiles during the holiday season.

Our goal this year is to raise at 3,000 gifts that will personally be delivered to local hospitals, shelters, and the Department of Children and Families. We aim to reach every state in New England, and we need your help reaching this goal!

Please consider donating new and unopened gifts. Monetary donations are also accepted: Checks should be made out to "For the Love of Erika" We are especially in need of Legos, Barbies, and learning toys!

Please place your toy donation in the box in the Narthex by Sunday December 11th.

Thank you for your support!

**Chocolate Festival TO GO! Returns on Saturday, Feb. 11.** St. Mark's will again sell delicious boxes of homemade chocolate desserts to raise money for local food pantries. Starting at the beginning of January, boxes can be purchased online ([www.st-mark.org/chocolate](http://www.st-mark.org/chocolate)) and then picked up at the church on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m. A subcommittee of parishioners will be reaching out to local businesses to solicit prizes for the raffle – last year we had more than 50! Contact Herb Elliott ([herb.elliott@cheza.com](mailto:herb.elliott@cheza.com)) if you would like to help with this endeavor, or if you know of any local business that might be contacted. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to participate!

**Let Us Send Some Love and Prayers.** Do you or someone you know need some love and prayers from the St. Mark's community? The newly rejuvenated Pastoral Care team is here to help. Led by Herb Elliott and Rev. Suzanne, the team is a group of loving lay leaders who want to strengthen the St. Mark's community by offering support in your time of need. This could be as simple as sending a get well card and adding you or your loved one to the prayer list, or as complicated as organizing meal deliveries. You can also request a Pastoral Care visit or call from Rev. Suzanne.

Use this convenient form to request any level of care: <https://airtable.com/shruEfDMqcCwuUulT>  
If you provide an email and/or phone number, a team member will reach out to check in.

**Dinner Church** is an alternative worship experience based on the traditions of the early church. Participants gather for a meal that also incorporates times of prayer and discussion. The

experience is family friendly, inviting multiple generations to reflect and pray together while enjoying the community built around a dinner table. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. St Mark's next dinner church will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.**

**Bridges Worship Ministry.** The next service will be **Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 3:45 p.m.** Our monthly service at Bridges includes prayers, singing some old favorite hymns, and distribution of communion. We welcome St. Mark's members to join us in the ministry by worshipping alongside the residents and assisting as singers, musicians, lay eucharistic visitors, and readers. All ages are welcome; community service hours are offered for young people who need them. **You must be fully vaccinated to participate in this ministry.** Facemasks are required at all times. If you would like to join us, please let Rev. Suzanne know.

**Friday Bible Study.** St. Mark's Friday Bible study meets every other week at a local restaurant to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! Next meeting **Dec. 17.** If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at [herb.elliott@cheza.com](mailto:herb.elliott@cheza.com) to request the the readings for the week.

**Monthly Communications Meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.** via Zoom. Team leaders and anyone interested in supporting St. Mark's communications to the wider community are invited to join Rev. Suzanne and our Digital Communications Specialist, Kyla Clark, to discuss the communications plan for the month, including activities and themes we want to highlight. E-mail Rev. Suzanne for the Zoom link.

**St. Mark's pastoral care team meeting** Join us as we share updates about members of St. Mark's in need of pastoral support and care this month.: the next meeting is **Tuesday, Dec. 27,** at 7 PM via Zoom. Please email Rev. Suzanne or Herb Elliott for the zoom link.

**The Claymation Christmas Movie with St. Mark's Sunday School.** Judie Hilton and St. Mark's Sunday School are excited to share a glimpse of the Claymation Christmas Movie the kids have been working on! Judie said, "It's amazing to watch the creativity, patience, and humor that this project spurs." This week will be a class in Williams Hall where the kids will continue working during coffee hour. Two volunteers are needed to help with the project over the next few weeks. If you're interested in helping the kids as they continue making clay figures, props, and filming, contact Judie.