

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
December 20 & 21, 2025



HOLY EUCHARIST

SETTING: Now the Feast & Celebration

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20 & 21, 2025

A time of silence is kept in preparation for worship. People may move about the worship space at any time to light candles at the prayer stations in the front or to write prayer petitions on the cards provided, placing them in the prayer walls at the back. Please silence cell phones.

PRELUDE

Partita on "From Heaven Above"

Schack

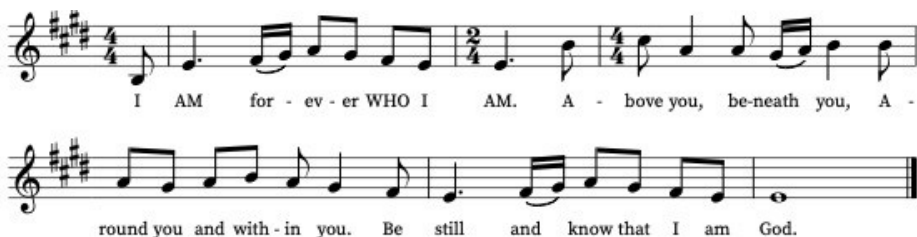
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CANTICLE

The assembly stands. The cantor sings a stanza, then invites the assembly to join in singing the refrain together. The Advent Wreath is then lit. When the lighting is complete, the assembly all join in singing the refrain a final time.

Like shepherds watching for the light,
Aware of dangers in the night,
We hear the angel: "Do not fear,
The Savior of the world is near."
We run, we see, we touch, we laugh:
You came to earth on our behalf.



Blessed be God, the eternal ✠ One-in-Three,
who was, and is, and is to come.

Blessed be God forever and ever.

During a busy season and in a culture that demands immediate response,

we pause and wait for your appearing.

In the midst of unease, chaos, and fear,

we pause and trust that your hand is leading us.

Uncertain about the future,

we pause and know your presence fully.

Come, O Christ, and set us free.

Come, Emmanuel, bring your reign of justice and peace.

The assembly turns to face the cross at the entrance of the nave.

GATHERING SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (st. 1-3, 6) ELW 257

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

In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Congregation: Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - - - cy.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is for the Assistant, the second for the Congregation, and the third continues the Congregation part. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - - - cy." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final long note on "cy." indicating a sustained sound.

For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all . . . (Refrain)

For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to
live your Word . . . (Refrain)

Assistant: Help, save and de - fend us O God.
Congregation: A - - - - - men.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is for the Assistant, and the second is for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us O God. A - - - - - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final long note on "men." indicating a sustained sound.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

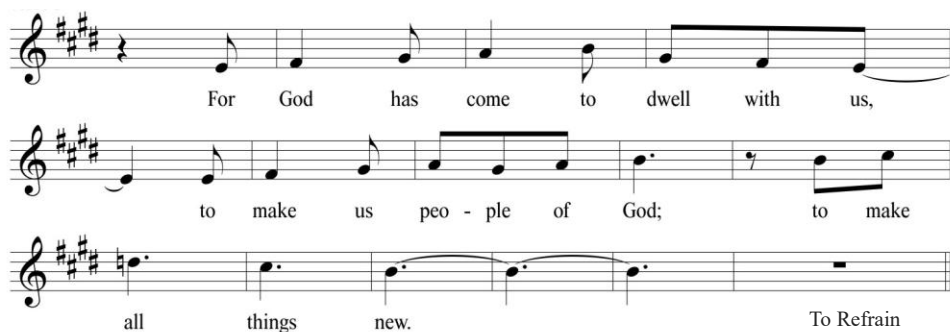
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for
ev - er - more!

Verse 1

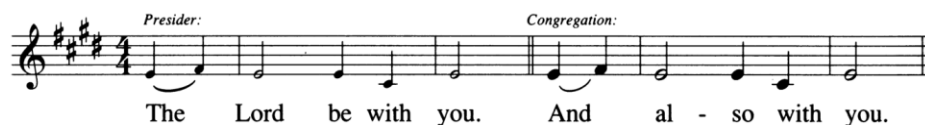
Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God. To Refrain

Verse 2

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. To Refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY



Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
With your abundant grace and might,
save us from the sin that hinders us,
that eagerly we may receive your promises,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 41:5-10

A reading from Isaiah.

⁵ The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.

⁶ Each one helps the other,
saying to one another, "Take courage!"

⁷ The artisan encourages the goldsmith,
and the one who smooths with the hammer encourages the
one who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, "It is good,"
and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be moved.

⁸ But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

⁹ you whom I took from the ends of the earth
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant;
I have chosen you and not cast you off";

¹⁰ do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

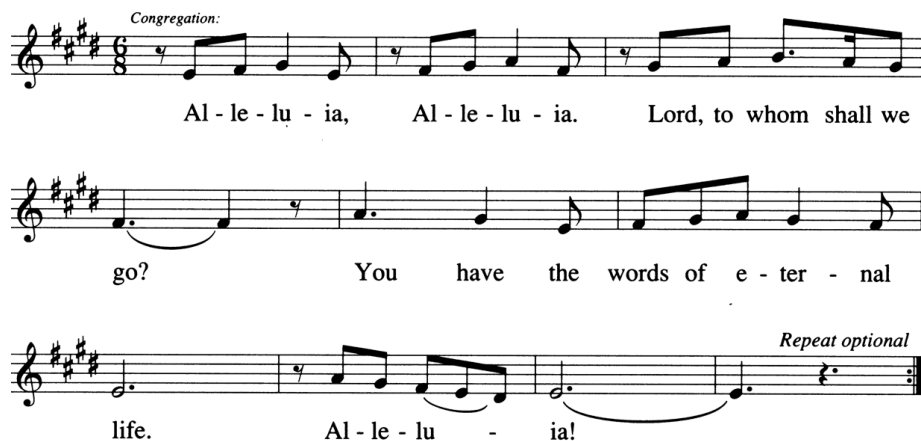
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (st. 1, 4-6)



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
4 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you,
there, standing at the door,
who best can help and cheer you
and bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
a terror to his foes,
a light of consolations
and blessed hope to those
who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johan Crüger, 1598–1662

No permissions required.

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With all our heart, mind and soul, let us pray to God.

O God, we pray for your Church universal;

That we all would be one.

Form every member of your Church to truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name would be glorified by all people.

We pray for bishops, priests, deacons, and all people of faith;

That we may respond “yes” in whatever you call us to do.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That justice and peace would reign on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works would be pleasing in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they would be delivered from distress.

Give eternal rest to the departed.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy.

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence is kept. The assembly is invited to name aloud prayer intentions and people, especially those listed on our prayer list in the bulletin.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you." The assembly is seated.

MEAL

CHOIR ANTHEM *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing* arr. Howard Helvey
(10:45 service)

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also send your offering by mail or go to our website, www.stmarks-spokane.org, and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 to receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.

The table is set. The assembly stands.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (*Saturday night only sings first verse.*)

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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

Congregation: you. Lift up your hearts. We

Presider: lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving.

The assembly joins the angels' song.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving including praise for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise.

During the Thanksgiving, the assembly may respond as prompted with these acclamations:

O come and save us.

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

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ, our Host, welcomes all to the table—where we feast on his promise of forgiveness and life in the bread and wine. Those wishing to receive communion come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you desire a gluten-free option, please take a wafer from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. Kneel or stand at the rail, filling in from the center aisle to the sides. A communion minister will offer you bread, and you may choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty glass in the tray located at a side aisle before returning to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. Simply let an usher know.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
*and each person may respond: **Amen.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,
you nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits,
gathering us around this joyful feast.
Renewed in courage and hope,
send us out to feed others as you have fed us.
Amen.

SENDING

ADVENT CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BLESSING

The assembly stands.

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 SONG *Joy to the World*

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

arr. Pethel

• **Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** •

316 E 24th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203

509-747-6677

stmarks-spokane.org

Worship attendance cards are located in the pews.
After listing all attendees (members and visitors) the card may be placed in
the offering plate.

ST. MARK'S STAFF

Pastors

Edwin Weber

Gretchen Olson

Parish Administrator

Jane Somers

Communication Coordinator

Loris Stupel

Office Coordinator

Susan Hagen

Volunteer Coordinator

Gina Bloom

Pastoral Assistant/Visitation

Tom Fallquist

Youth Program Leaders

Calvin Moore

Rachel Peterson

Live Stream/Sound Coordinator

Randy Darst

Alleluia Choir/Godly Play Coordinator

Kendra Chapman

Director of Music/Organ

Carol Miyamoto

Director of Music/Choral

Ann Benson

Sexton

Gib Dominguez

Congregation Council

Council President: Ira Gardner, Jr.

Council Members: Ben Baker, Kate Bassett, Patti Berg, Sue Connelly, Janet Farness, Mary Hoenecke, Theron Miller, Michelle Phelan, Susan Pine, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers.

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