

Liturgy at SAINT MARK'S



HOLY EUCHARIST

SETTING: Now the Feast & Celebration

First Sunday of Advent

November 29 & 30, 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

The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow

arr. Warner

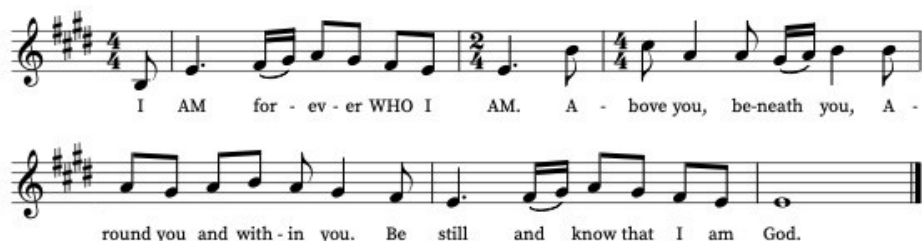
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

ADVENT CANTICLE

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.

Though mountains slide into the sea,
And waters rush where fields should be,
Though monuments and nations fall,
Your holy city stands through all.
When nothing seems to stay the same,
You teach us your eternal name.



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

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

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's 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 cadence on the word "cy."

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 cadence on the word "men."

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!

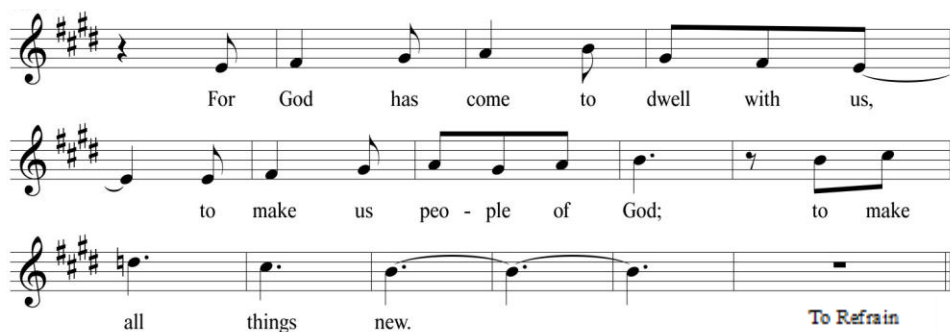
Verse 1

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.

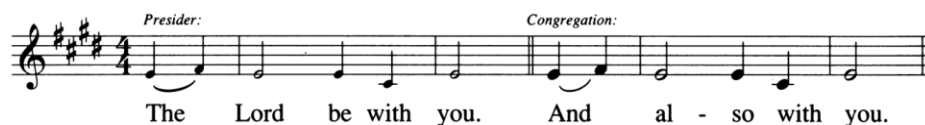
Verse 2

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.

O God, strength of those who believe in you,
give comfort and clarity of vision to us in this age.
Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will;
open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound;
and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease,
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:55-57

A reading from Lamentations.

- ⁵⁵ I called on your name, O LORD,
from the depths of the pit;
⁵⁶ you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear
to my cry for help, but give me relief!"
⁵⁷ You came near when I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear!"

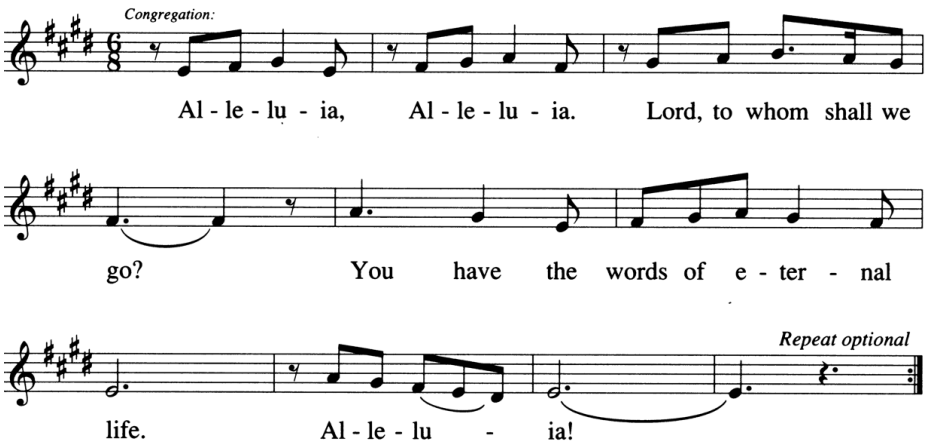
Word of God, word of life.

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: Luke 1:5-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Each Winter As the Year Grows Older* ELW 252

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

O God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all the faithful;

That we may be faithful ministers in all you call us to do.

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

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

That they may be delivered from distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy, especially Eldine Purcell.

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

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

DIALOG

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.

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.

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

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.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE*Wechet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Walther

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