

ST. MARK'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 29, 2026
1st Sunday of Advent
Worship Service 9:30 AM

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Jen Beamsley

NURSERY – *is staffed today and is located across from the Children's Clubhouse.*

NURSING NOOK – *A private room for nursing mothers is available on the upper level of the sanctuary to the right of the elevator.*

NOAH'S ARK FOR CHILDREN – *There are books, puzzles, lacing and tracing cards, and weekly activity packets for use during the service for children. Reusable items are returned to the ark at the end of the service.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
In the space of our hearts and in our silence, let us confess our sin to the Holy One.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our Creator, grant us your forgiveness: **for our false desires, for our hateful actions, for our wastefulness and for all we left untended.** *Silence for reflection.*

Loving Christ, scatter the sin from our souls so that we can wait with joy for your return to us: **forgive in us what has gone wrong, repair in us what is wasted, reveal in us what is good.** *Silence for reflection.*

Spirit of Wisdom, pour out your grace upon us: **forgive us when we turn away from suffering, remain silent in the face of injustice, or fail to recognize those longing for freedom.** *Silence for reflection.*

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG *"Blessed Assurance"* *(Vs. 1,3)* Hymn #638

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

In the lengthening nights of winter, we watch and wait for the love of Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our light.

For children and elders, for neighbors near and far, we kindle a flame of love.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our light.

For the world you imagine, we carry your love into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our light.

ADVENT SONG *"He Came Down"* (Vs1. X2) Hymn # 253

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore. ***Repeat***

THE READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah. Listen for the Word of God. **Our ears are open.**

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as 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!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From 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.
5 You 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.
6 We 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.

7 There 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.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do 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!**

Please stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25

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. 14 You
will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the
sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be
filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17
With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to
their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people
prepared for the Lord." 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will
happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." 19 The angel replied, "I
am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to

bring you this good news. [20] But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."
[21] Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. [22] When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. [23] When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.
[24] After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, [25] "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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

The Congregation may be seated.

SERMON Pastor Jen Beamsley

Please stand as you are able.

SONG OF THE DAY *"Christ Be Our Light" (Vs. 1,2,5)* Hymn #715

APOSTLES' CREED
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 to the dead.
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 INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING
The ministries of St. Mark's are made possible through the generosity of God's people. If you would like to make an offering today, offering boxes are located at the entrances to the sanctuary near the main aisles. You may also give online at www.stmarkswashington.org.

OFFERING RESPONSE *"Joy to the World" (Vs. 1&3)* Hymn #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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
God is with us! This meal of mercy and grace is for all. **Thanks be to God!**

The congregation may be seated.

COMMUNION AT HOME AND IN THE PEWS
All are welcome to communion, if you need a communion packet, raise your hand and an usher will bring it to you. Children & adults who do not receive Holy Communion are invited forward for a blessing by crossing their arms. If you desire to commune, extend your hand to the pastor.
Then, move to the communion assistant next to the pastor to take a cup of wine (DARK COLOR) or grape juice (LIGHT COLOR). The disposable cups can be thrown away in receptacles.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"* Anna Rogers

COMMUNION SONG *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* Hymn #471

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG *"This Little Light of Mine"* Hymn #677

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

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SPONSOR POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Help decorate the altar for our Christmas Eve service by sponsoring a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is **$20** per poinsettia. Please sign up in the gathering space or submit your order to the church office by **Monday, December 14.** Payments may be made to St. Mark's; please note "Poinsettias" on your payment.

Let's DECK THE *Halls!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us in decorating the church for Christmas!
The Burton Street/North entrance will be open.
We hope to be done before noon. Donuts will be provided!