

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor*

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“ All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name ”

**** CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

✙ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

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.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 239

“ Hark the Glad Sound! ”

**** GREETING**

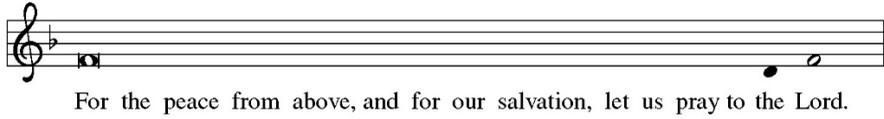
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

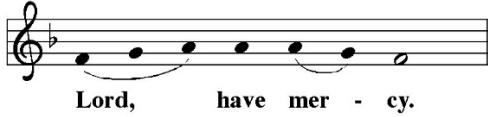
**** KYRIE**



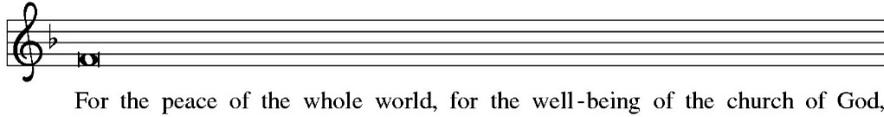
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



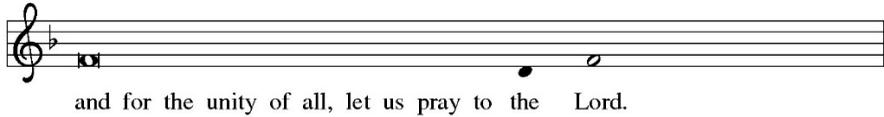
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



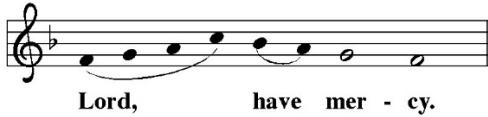
Lord, have mer - cy.



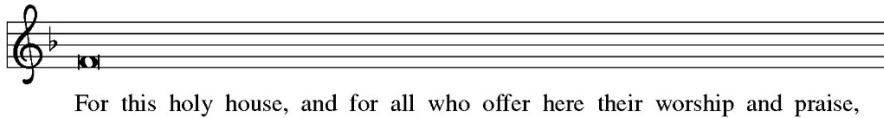
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



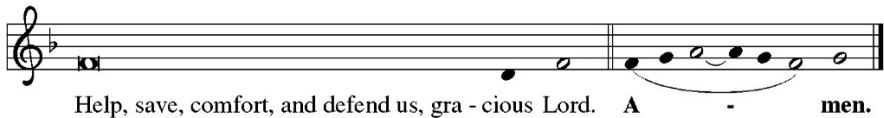
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The prophet Isaiah proclaims the coming of the Messiah, the one who will bring justice to the world.

(light candle 2)

We lit this first candle as a sign of our hope for peace on Earth. We light this second candle as a sign of our faith in your justice.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

We will read the Psalm responsively, starting with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ 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. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ 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 ancestors ⁹ and 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"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ 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.

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ 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.’ ” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 249

“ On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry ”

**** BLESSING OF THE PIANO**

P Dear friends: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God’s blessing as we set apart this piano for the glory and praise of God.
Sing with joy to God our strength

C **and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

P Praise God with tambourine and dance;

C **praise God with strings and pipe.**

P We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts. The whole earth reflects your glory; all your creatures praise you. We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory. You alone do great wonders, and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth. You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children, to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song. In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints. Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song. Send your blessing upon us and upon this piano, which we dedicate to your praise and glory. Enrich the lives of your people through it, and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in it. By your Holy Spirit, let this piano enliven the proclamation of your word to the building up of your church, to the glory of your name, and to the good of all your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**** 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 *(Please be seated)*

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“A Star Will Soon Shine ” by

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 253

“He Came Down ” v. 2

**** 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**

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 our thanks and praise.

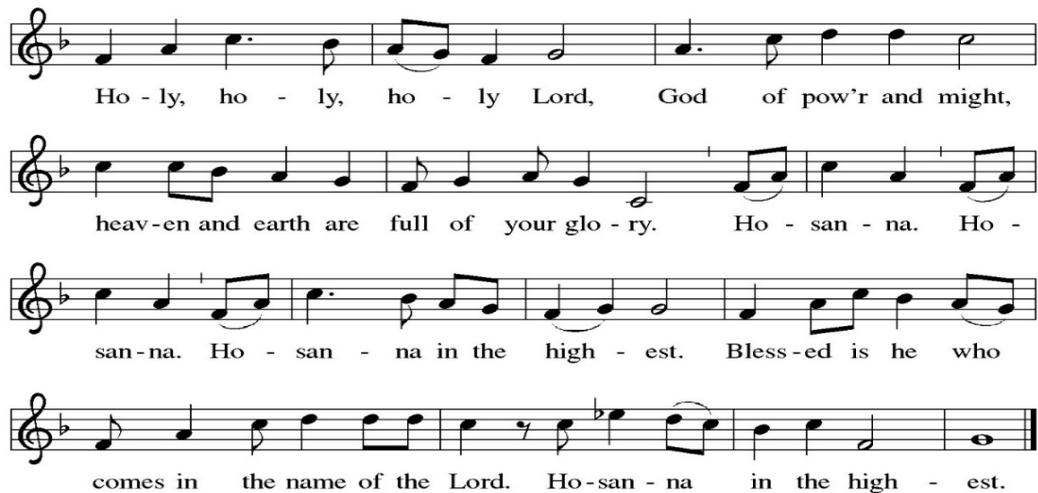
**** PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,**

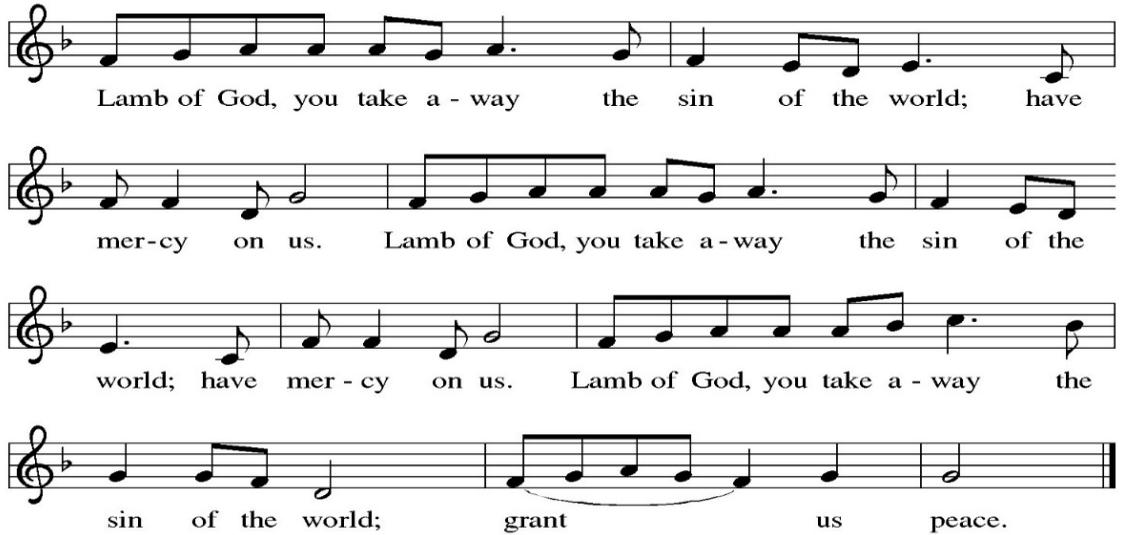
on earth as it is in heaven.

**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.**

**** COMMUNION SONG**



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord's table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“ O Come, O Come Emmanuel ”

No. 257

“ Let Us Break Bread Together ”

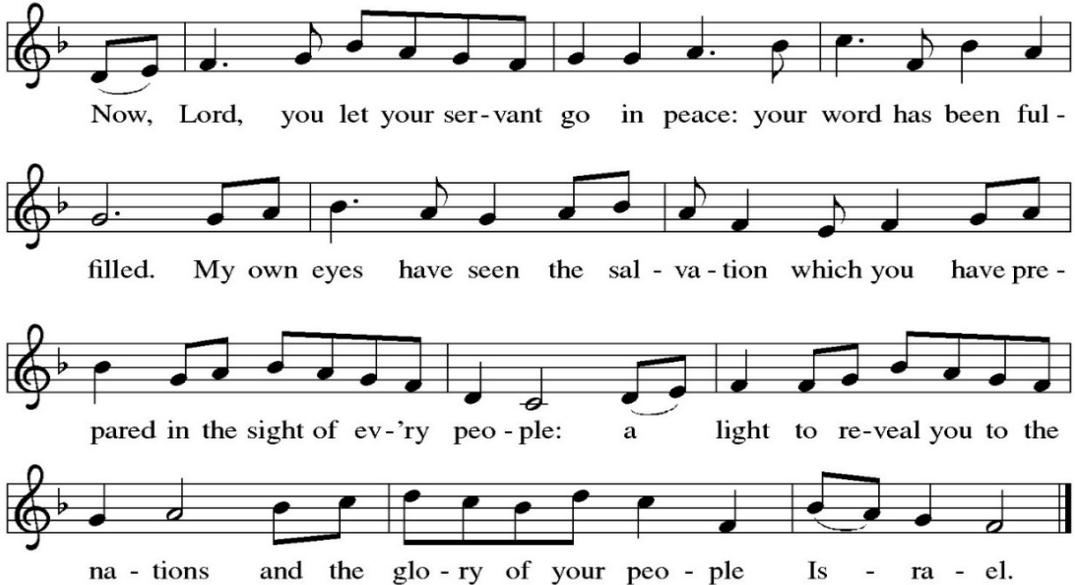
No. 471

**** TABLE BLESSING**

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

Amen.

**** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser- vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal- va- tion which you have pre-
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo- ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na- tions and the glo- ry of your peo- ple Is- ra- el.

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

**** BLESSING**

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.**

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 264

“ Prepare the Royal Highway ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Now Thank We All Our God ” by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar December 7, 2025 – December 14, 2025

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Piano Dedication
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Dinner at 5:15 p.m.
- Devotion at 7:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Taylor Kitzmiller-Bosley
Lector:	Judy Bertsch
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Stephanie Berger
Communion Clean-up:	Phyllis Rinker
Safe Keeper:	Jim Murray
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Paul Leduc, Donna Swift

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at pastorcarrie@stmarksoakland.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



Today's altar flowers are placed by Laura Robinson
in loving memory of Pastor Scott.



Prayer Requests

Illness: Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel, Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Philip, Lia Marie, Shirley, Margaret, Chip Lee, Doug Haller, Gary Price, Chuck & Valerie, Sam Howell, Mark, Michael Swift, Joe Cook, Jim, Leslie, Diane, Linda, Lois Tyson, Valerie, Marjorie Yellets, Erin Joy Kelly, Paul, Sam, Debbie, Fred, CJ & Charlene, Hop Cassidy, Judy Cassiday, Lori McCain Taylor, Donna Lohman, Belva, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Bernice, Forrest, Brian Sites, Wyatt, Jeff Moyer, Tom Powers, Sarah Dahlen, Ron Junkins, Rayetta, Patty, Gretchen, Dawn Lewis, Lisa Davis, Chad, Roger Sisler, Margorie, Bennie, Theresa, Jennifer, Russell Sines, Calvin Samuels, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Virginia, Bob Heisler, Norma, Steve Sharps.

Special Needs: Chase, Terry, Sharron, Elaine, Cayce, Bill, Tom, Sharon, Wes, Griffith, Sylvia, Bridget, Jay, John, Aaron, Izzy, Steve Sines, Pete Savage, Ben, Erina, Abraham Worrell, Michael, Gage, Jeff, Eddie Feathers.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 10	Advent Dinner and Devotion at 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, December 20	Practice with the Youth
Sunday, December 21	Youth-Led Worship Service
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Prelude at 7:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion at 8:00 p.m.

Announcements

St. Mark's Youth to Lead Worship!

Our youth will be taking over the roles of worship on Sunday, December 21st! They will be participating in every aspect of the service that morning—from the first greeting you receive when you walk in the door to each detail of worship. They are even preparing a special dialogue to help us prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior.

You will not want to miss this meaningful and joy-filled service!



December 7, 2025, Second Sunday of Advent Matthew 3:1-12

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Dear God, your only son came to impart the Spirit's power and mercy to all. May our hearts receive the Spirit and turn from the ways of selfish pride. We ask this in the name of Jesus the anointed one, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"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." (Matthew 3:11)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

John preaches a message of repentance and baptizes all with passion. But when his cousin Jesus requests to be baptized, John wonders if God could possibly approve of such a thing. Perhaps an affirmation from heaven will reassure him.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **When did you feel you were in over your head? How did you get through it?**
- **John announced the coming of the Messiah. What do you think he was expecting?**
- **For the littles: Name all the ways you can think of that people make an announcement. What's the best announcement you've ever heard?**



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God open your ears to the good news of the coming Christ child. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Build a fire in a fireplace, firepit, or simply light a candle. Consider the properties of fire. Wonder together about why John proclaimed a baptism of fire.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18