

# FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

## 2 December 2018



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1900 ST. PAUL STREET – BALTIMORE, MD 21218

PHONE: 410.752.5804

ON THE WEB AT: [STMARKSBALTIMORE.ORG](http://STMARKSBALTIMORE.ORG)

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A *RECONCILING IN CHRIST* CONGREGATION

### STAFF

PASTOR REV. DR. JOSEPH A. DONNELLA II

ADMINISTRATOR STEPHEN E. KOHLER

CANTOR JAMES HARP

DEACONS CLIFFORD ANDERSSON, CONNIE LISCH,

SEXTON JEFFRY SPANGLER

SUE ROMANIC

### MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH IS TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY,  
PRACTICE HOSPITALITY, AND MAKE KNOWN CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN WORD AND DEED.

*All baptized worshipers are invited and welcomed to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord in the sacrament of Holy Communion. The wine may be received by common cup or by intinction. Communion will be distributed today at the Communion Rail. Please approach by way of the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles.*

### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S LITURGY:

Presider	Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Donnella II
Assisting Minister	Deacon Connie Lisch
Crucifer	Teri Bennett
Chalicer	Alexander Smith-Burden
Lector	Richard Spittel
Prayer Petitioner	John Lisch
Greeters	Caroline Bahr
Tellers	Shawn McDowell, Gil Ricketts

*Copies of our Prayer List may be found on the table in the narthex. Please take a copy and remember those persons listed in your prayers throughout the coming week.*

# 2 December 2018

## First Sunday of Advent

### VOCAL VOLUNTARY

J. S. Bach

from "Schwing freudig euch empor"  
*Willkommen, werther Schatz*  
**CHRISTOPHER J. HARTUNG, BARITONE**

Welcome, worthy treasure! Love and faith make room for you in my purified heart, draw near to me!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*-The Assembly will please stand-*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Let us come before God in confession.  
To you, O God,

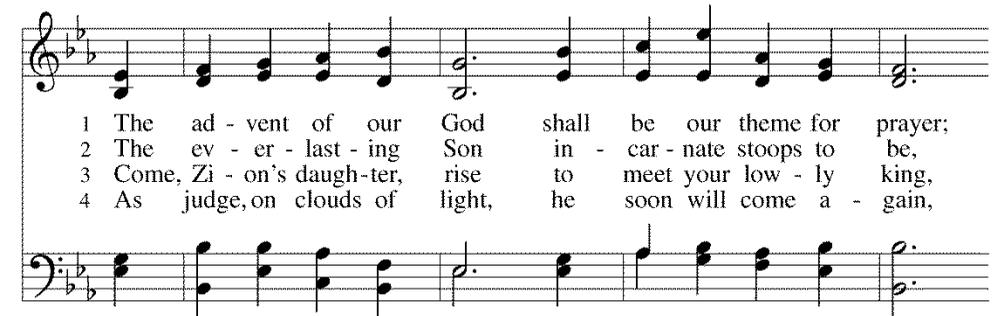
C. **we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P. Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✠ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

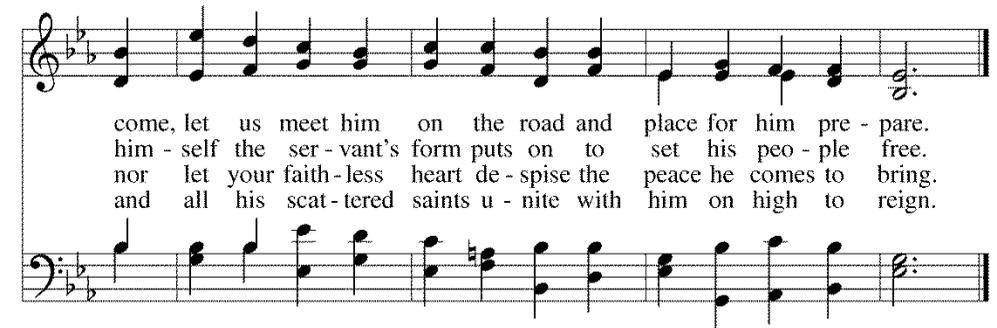
C. **Amen.**

### THE HYMN

#### The Advent of Our God



1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,  
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.  
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.  
nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.  
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
let sin be put to flight;  
no longer let the law hold sway,  
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,  
who comes to set us free,  
with Father, Spirit, ever one  
through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.  
Music: FRANCONIA. Johann B. König, 1691–1758, adapt.

### GREETING

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

C. **And also with you.**

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

I O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

#### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

P. God of all creation, bless this evergreen wreath and candles. Let the green be a sign of the everlasting life we find in Christ. Let the wreath remind us of hopeful longing and faithful promise. Jesus, light of the world, mark our time and light our way: Bless these candles, melting wax of days and years, time gone by and time to come. Spirit of God, wake us from our sleep and stir our hearts to yearn for you.

**C. Amen.**

**A candle is lighted during the following prayer.**

P. Holy are You, God of power and glory; You promised to make your presence known among the nations, and to strengthen Your people to the end, when Christ will come with the clouds to gather His people. As we light this candle, open our eyes to see the sin that separates us from You and one another; and restore us again that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stir up Your power and come to save us:

**C. Reveal Your face to us, and give us life. Amen.**

Verse 3 of Hymn on following page.

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

*-The Assembly will please sit-*

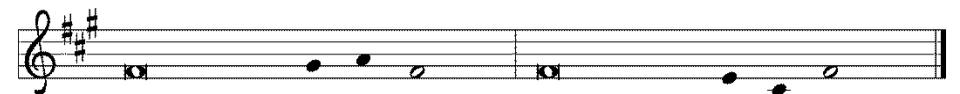
### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10



<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day

long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

## SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

<sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

*-The Assembly will please stand-*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## OSTENDE NOBIS

*Alleluia. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving health. Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

<sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

<sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*-The Assembly will please sit-*

## SERMON

*-The Assembly will please stand-*

## THE HYMN

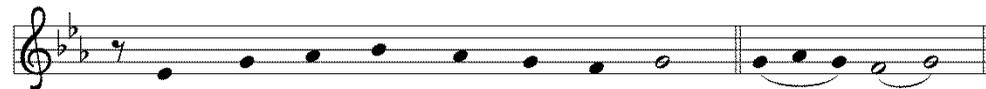
## Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Petition response: **hear our prayer.**

## CREED

**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,**

**PEACE**

*-The Assembly will please sit-*

**OFFERING SENTENCE**



## ANTHEM

H. Alexander Matthews

### Behold the Days Come

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous branch and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute justice and mercy on the earth. And this is the name by which He shall be called: The Lord, Our Righteousness. O Emmanuel, our King and lawgiver, hope of every nation, and our Savior: Come and save us, Lord our God.*

*-The Assembly will please stand-*

## OFFERING CANTICLE



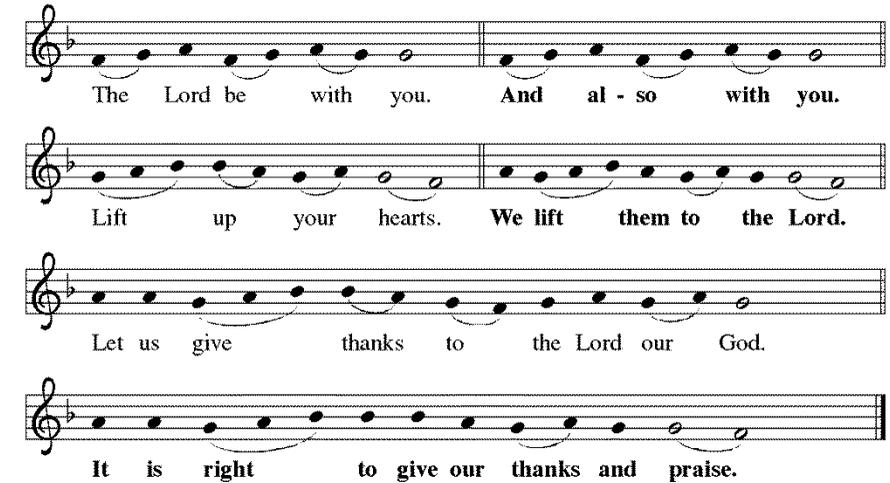
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- A. Let us pray:  
C. **God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

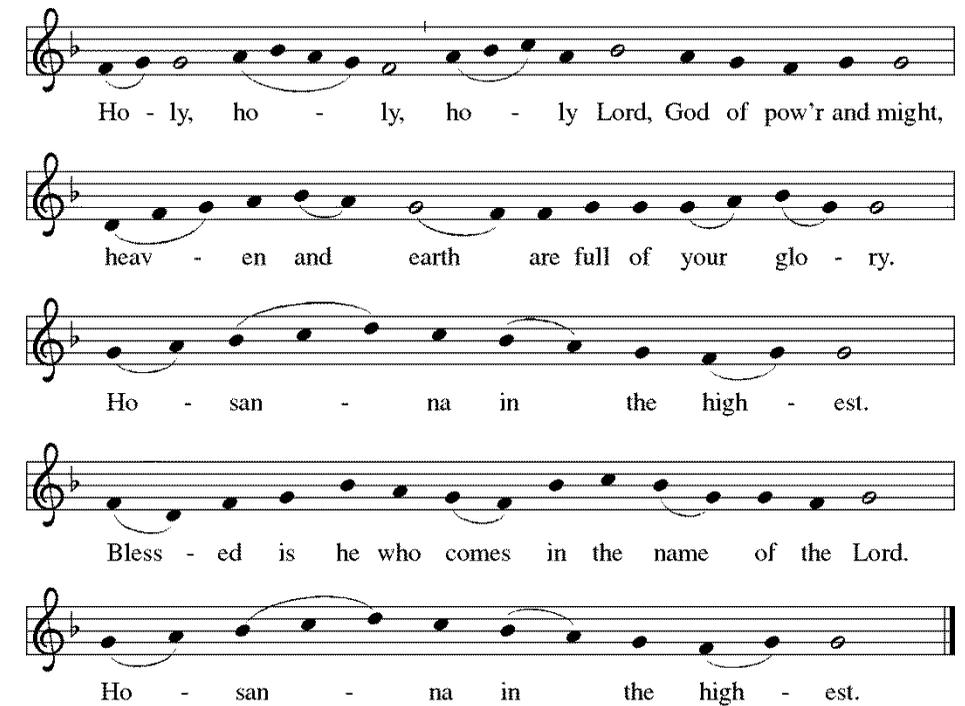
## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al- so 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

### 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 in the high-est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san-na in the high-est.

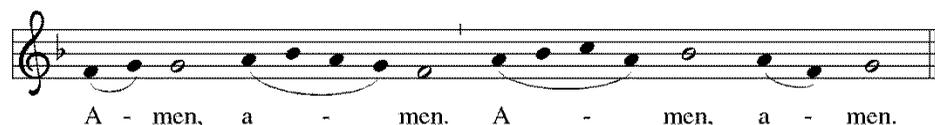
*-The Assembly may kneel, stand, or sit-*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### MYSTERY OF FAITH



### CONCLUSION OF THE THANKSGIVING



### LORD'S PRAYER

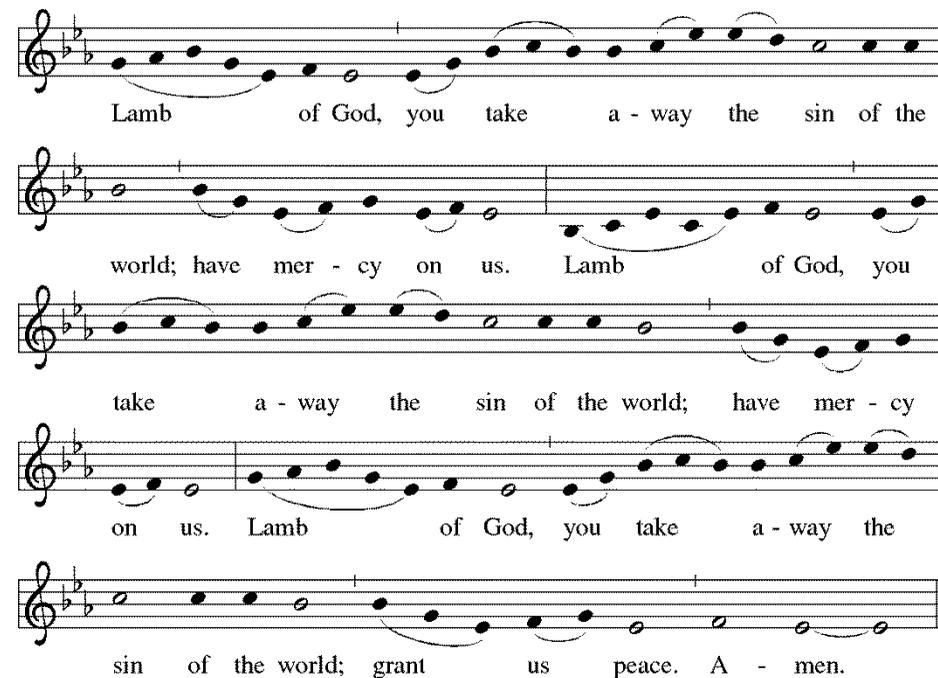
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
C. Holy things for a holy people.

*-The Assembly will please sit-*

### LAMB OF GOD



### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed at the rail.

### THE HYMN

The Assembly will please stand at the final verse.

## Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A. Let us pray:  
 Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.
- C. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

- P. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
 C. **Amen.**

## THE HYMN

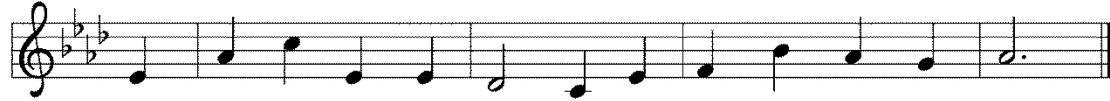
### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## DISMISSAL

- A. Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C. **Thanks be to God.**

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The **Advent Wreath** is given to the glory of God in loving memory of our parents, A, Margaret and Carl S. Gerlach and Helen H. and Miles L. Greenawald by Pastor Carl H. and Mrs. Margaret G. Greenawald.

The **Altar Greens** are given in memory of loved ones by Harold Sachs.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

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### Today – 2 December – First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Adult Class
- 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist/Blessing the Advent Wreath
- 12:15 PM Fellowship Hour: Gene Miller & Don Zimmerman

### Wednesday – 5 December

- 10:00 AM Urban Clergy Pericope Study

### Saturday – 6 December

*Christmas Cookie Order Deadline*

### Sunday – 9 December – Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Adult Class
- 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 12:15 PM Meeting of the Congregation; Fellowship Hour (Council Members)



from Sunday, 11/25:

Attendance: 49  
 Offering: \$1446

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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**We welcome all visitors this morning**—we are grateful for your presence with us! Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor's Slip (in the pew) and return it in the offering plate – we'd like to stay in touch with you. You are welcome to join us for Fellowship Hour in Lehr Hall. You may check our website for further information about St. Mark's Church: [stmarksbaltimore.org](http://stmarksbaltimore.org). We also have a presence on Facebook.

**ADVENT!** We are grateful to the Greenawalds for our beautiful Advent Wreath and to all who help enhance our liturgical celebrations with their generosity. Included in today's bulletin is a form to use to contribute toward decorating the church for Christmas. The suggested minimum contribution is \$10. We ask that you PRINT your form and please note that the deadline for all forms and funds is Sunday, 16 December. Thank you!

**Meeting of the Congregation...** we remind all members that our December meeting will be held next Sunday immediately following the liturgy. A mailing has gone out this past week outlining the agenda and includes pertinent materials for your review. All are urged to attend – your presence is valued and necessary.

**Cookies! Cookies! Cookies!** Please remember that a number of our members are planning on baking YOUR Christmas cookies this year! Order forms are available in Lehr Hall along with a box in which to deposit them or you can email us at [stmarkscookies@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkscookies@gmail.com). The deadline for orders is 8 December! Let's do this!

**In case you missed the earlier announcement,** Marjorie Lange, mother of Pastor Beverly Lange Donnella (wife of Pastor Joseph Donnella), died on 22 November. Her funeral and burial were held in Champaign, Illinois this past Monday. We extend our sincere sympathy to Pastor Beverly and to Pastor Joseph. *May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

