the welcome place.

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Worship Bulletin
Sunday, November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

First Week of Advent
Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.
As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ACS p. 29)
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

GATHERING SONG *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (ELW 242)

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 (ACS p. 31)
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

SONG OF PRAISE (ACS p. 31)
Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the hosannas, the dying, rebirth.
Ours the rejoicing for nature reclaimed;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the anointing, the radiant worth.
Ours the rejoicing for spirits aflame;
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9
A reading from Isaiah.

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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A reading from 1 Corinthians.
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you

are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)
Nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.
Nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37
The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)
Nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.
Nothing in all creation
can separate us from the love of God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* (ACS 949)

NICENE 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,
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

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

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

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise* (W&P 150)

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ACS p. 36)
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 (ACS p. 36)
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ACS p. 40)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

SONG DURING COMMUNION *The King Shall Come* (ELW 260)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ACS p. 41)
Let us pray.
We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING
The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in ☩ Christ Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Jesus, Still Lead On* (ELW 624)

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Dedication

The Eternal Flame Candle was given to the Glory of God by Bonnie Tillman.

Assisting In Worship Today

Preacher / Presider .....The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey
Musicians ..... Faith Woodward
Technology Support ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree
Lector ..... Edie Beaupre

Church Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey
School Director: Melisa McDaid
Music Director: Faith Woodward
Parish Administrator: Alice Kaplan

This Week at St. Mark

Today ..... Worship Service..... 10 AM
Wednesday..... Wednesdays in Advent .....6 PM
Sunday ..... Worship Service..... 10 AM

Announcements

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT - This Advent, we'll gather each Wednesday at 6:30 pm under the topic *History or Hallucination: The Book of Revelation.* Sign up in the narthex to help with the potluck meal. No time to cook? No worry! You are invited no matter what - we look forward to seeing you there.

Share the joy of Christmas with a senior at **FAIR ACRES.** Sign out a gift tag or two in the narthex. Please bring your gifts to the church office **by Sunday, December 6.** Place your **unwrapped** gift in a gift bag and staple the tag to the outside of the bag. Questions? Contact Kathy Cosentino.

We invite you to place a **POINSETTIA** at the altar for the celebration of Christmas. Pick up an order form in the narthex. Please have your order form and payment in to the church office by Sunday, December 13.

Join us for a holiday outing to see **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** at the Colonial Playhouse in Aldan on Saturday, December 5th, at 7:30 pm. Play tickets are $18 or less if we can get a group rate. Sign up in the narthex. Questions? Contact Edie Beaupre at ebeaupre1@yahoo.com. Rides can be arranged if needed. Interested in dinner out at Delco Diner or another area restaurant prior to the show? Indicate your interest & choice of restaurant on the sign-up sheet.

Have an announcement, request, or just some good news to share with the congregation? Make sure to let the church office know so we can include it in the bulletin and weekly eblast.

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