

Ecumenical Advent Service

December 22, 2021



Holden Evening Prayer

St. Mark's Lutheran Church · St. Paul's United Methodist Church
St. Eugene Catholic Church · St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's is pleased to host the fourth in our series of midweek Advent services.
Thank you to Rev. Canon Rowe for preaching tonight.

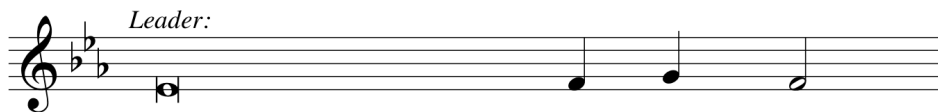
Worship Leaders

Father Pat Cahill, St. Eugene Catholic Church
Pastor Stephanie Foretich-McKey, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
The Rev. Canon Richard Rowe, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Deacon Katie Rivers, St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Pastor Matthew Smith, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Welcome and Worship Announcements

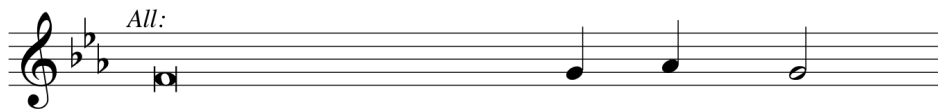
Service of Light

Leader:



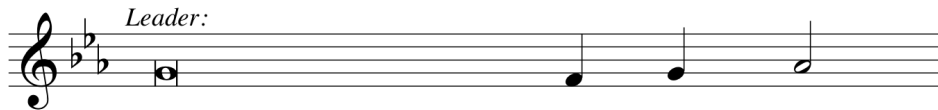
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



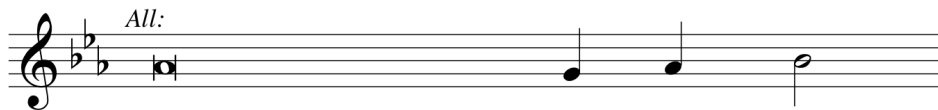
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



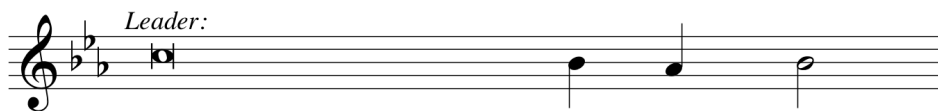
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

Evening Hymn



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

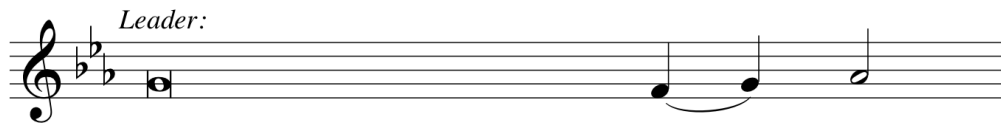
Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: *All:*



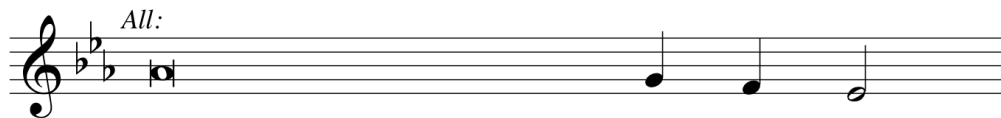
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader:



Let us sing our thanks to — God,

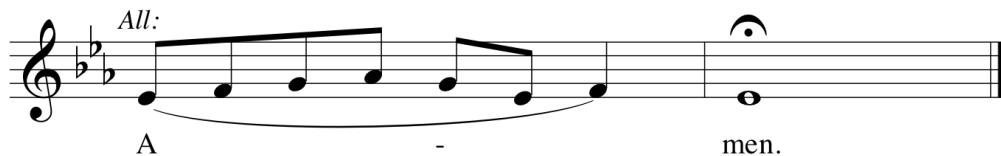
All:



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All:



A

men.

Psalmody

Psalm 141

Group 1: Pulpit side

Group 2: Font side

Refrain
All



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the



lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Verse 1

Leader or Group One



1. O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two



1. O God, I



now; O hear my voice when I cry to



call to you, come to me now; O hear my

Refrain



you. Let my prayer rise up like



voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

Verse 2



of-fer-ing to you. 2. Keep watch with -
hands as an of-fer-ing to you.



in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your
2. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my



love be burn - ing bright.
heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

Refrain



Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the
bright. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.
 fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

Verse 3

3. All praise to the God of all, Cre - a - tor of
 you. 3. All praise to the

life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of
 God of all, Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to

Refrain

love. Let my prayer rise up like
 Christ and the Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise

in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
 up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my
 of - fer-ing to you.
 hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

Silence for meditation

Psalm Prayer

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen.

First Readings

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20; 12: 12-14

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

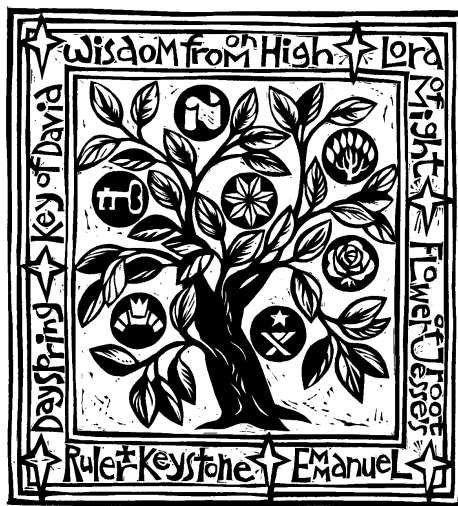
Luke 1: 39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.

Homily

The Rev. Canon Richard Rowe



Hymn

“My Soul Proclaims your Greatness, Lord”

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim -
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

The Annunciation

The Magnificat

All:

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

fine last time

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

A *Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

B

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:

Final Blessing

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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(828) 253-0043 · www.stmarkslutheran.net

We acknowledge and honor the Anigiduwagi, more commonly known as the Cherokee peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this evening, as well as our Indigenous siblings who have cared for and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Ministers

The People of God at St. Mark's

Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith
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Cantor: David Anderson
cantordavid@stmarklutheran.net

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Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry
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Facilities Manager: Steve Henry
facilities@stmarkslutheran.net