



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

***The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

December 22, 2024



***Growing together in faith to abundantly  
nourish our community***

200 Longwood Drive SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

256.539.4361 | [stmarkshsv.org](http://stmarkshsv.org) | [@stmarkshsv](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshsv)

# *In Worship Today...*

## *Narrative Lectionary: Jesus' Birth Announced*

Prelude

Welcome | Gathering Song: **The King of Glory**

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

Advent Wreath: **The People Who Walked in Darkness** | Children's Message

Scriptural Introit: **Come Now, O God**

Psalm 113 *Pew Bible p.491* | Luke 1:26-56 *Pew Bible p.831*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Canticle of the Turning** ELW 723

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: Word of God, Come Down on Earth; Choir

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Distribution: **Be Known to Us** | **People Look East** ELW 248

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Hark, the Glad Sound!** ELW 239

Dismissal | Postlude: Oh Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel arr. Robert J. Powell

Our Liturgical Music comes from: *All Creation Sings Setting 12*

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Lara Sieja | Lector: Leah Gradl | Acolyte: Annika Williams

Ushers: Rodney & Phyllis Hutchins | Tech Volunteer: John Peugeot

Communion Assistants: Annika Williams, Kinsley Satterfeal, Rachel Cutter, Zeah Gastler

Coffee Host: Les Billman

## *St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion*

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

## *We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!*

There are children's activity bulletins and worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

## *Advent Candles*

During the season of Advent, we light additional candles in worship. The candles in the Advent wreath are lit sequentially, one the first Sunday in Advent, two the second Sunday, and so on. Originally, the candles (and the paraments as well!) were purple, reflecting the penitential, preparatory nature of the season. As early as the twelfth century, some churches used blue for the season, and it became widespread in the 1960s, as the focus of the season began to shift from penitence to hope. The third candle is pink or rose colored, and the third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for rejoice. There are a few traditions around the names of candles, some assigning them as the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and others naming them the Prophecy Candle, the Bethlehem Candle, the Shepherd's Candle, and the Angel's Candle. As we light these candles, we remember the promise of Christmas, and we prepare for Christ to come in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world.

## *Altar Flowers*

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Larry & Susan Partesotti to the honor and glory of God in celebration of their 54th Wedding Anniversary.

## *Ready to Get Online?*

Wi-Fi is available using the SMLC Guest network with password: GrowingTogether

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, December 15, 2024*

### Attendance

In Person Worship: 139 | Online Views: 151

Child & Youth Sunday School: 28 | Adult Sunday School: 14

### General Offerings

Last Week: \$28,493 | YTD: \$666,859 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

*For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:*



## *This Week We are Praying for...*

The many victims of senseless and ongoing gun violence across the nation | Compassion and kindness towards others and ourselves amidst the last-minute hustle and bustle before Christmas | The St. Mark's Staff Support Committee as they lovingly bolster the spirits of our staff in every season | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Ciera, Vicki, Carrie, Aaron, Jeanette, Suzy, Sue, Frank, John, Myra, Mija, Elwin, and Kim.

*A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday; if you would like to receive this email, please contact [prayer@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:prayer@stmarkshsv.org) Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.*

## *Christmas Caroling— Today at 2pm*

Come one! Come all! We are going Christmas caroling at Magnolia Trace. Wear your favorite Christmas ensemble – we'll provide extra Santa hats and jingle bells! And for all those interested, let's meet at Pappo's Pizzeria for lunch after worship before going to Magnolia Trace. Please sign up in Communication Central.

## *Christmas Eve Worship*

Join us this year at one of our Christmas Eve services, 6:30pm and 11pm. Both services will include Holy Communion and a candle-lit rendition of "Silent Night". At 6:30pm, we will celebrate with a full festival service while worship at 11pm will be less formal and more intimate. Let's create new memories, honor traditions, and embrace the joy of the season.

## *Church Office Closed*

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 until Monday, January 6, 2025.

## *Cozy Christmas*

On Sunday, December 29, we will be having a "cozy" Christmas worship service. Wear your pajamas or favorite Christmas apparel and come sing some carols while celebrating the Christmas message and sipping yummy hot chocolate!

## *Bible in a Year*

Pastor Will is beginning a Bible in a Year reading plan on January 1, and you're invited to join! A calendar of readings is available to guide you through a few chapters a day. Every day, prompts will be posted to Pastor Will's Facebook to help you stay on track. Tuesdays at 10am, beginning January 7, he'll be leading a conversation in the Fellowship Hall about the readings from the past week. Come join the conversation and learn about how the story of our faith intersects with your story!

## *Children & Chit Chat*

Families of preschoolers (infant-age 5) are invited to join us the second Saturday of every month for a play date. This month, we will go to EarlyWorks Children's Museum on Saturday, January 11 at 9am. Admission for toddlers is \$7 and \$12 for youth & adults. Please contact Madeline Wirtz with any questions.

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## *St. Mark's Staff*

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | [pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org)

Traci Billman, Director of Christian Education | [traci@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:traci@stmarkshsv.org)

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