St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Worshipping at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 500 Richmond Pl NE, during St. Mark's building renovation project.

December 6, 2026
Second Sunday of Advent



O Clavis David • O Key of David

WELCOME

All are welcome to worship in this place. Please ask an usher if you need assistance. Upon arrival, we keep silence in the church that we all may pray quietly in preparation for worship. Please remember to silence your cell phones.



Hearing assistance devices are now available in the First Church auditorium and Fireside Room. Please ask an usher for help if you need one. To activate the loop system, please turn on your T-coil.

Children of all ages are always welcome in Worship!

- Families with small children are invited to take seats in any pew, or in the pews reserved for families up front on the left (*north*) side of the auditorium adjacent to the Fireside Room.
- Or, if you prefer, we offer care for children ages 0-3 during the service in the Fireside Room.
- Young children who wish to attend **Children's Chapel** during the service may follow the cross out of the auditorium and into the Fireside Room adjacent to the auditorium after the Gospel reading for songs, stories, and prayers relating to the day's Bible readings. Children ages 0-3 may attend with a caregiver, and youth ages 9+ are welcome to be a helper. Children and youth return at the Peace.

Please see today's announcements insert for details about today's Sunday School Classes for children, youth, and adults and other church events.

Newcomers: We invite you to fill out a **Welcome Card**, available from any usher, and leave it with an usher or in St. Mark's Parish Hall after the service.



TODAY WE CONTINUE ST. MARK'S SEASON *of off-site Eucharist Services in the auditorium of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. We are grateful to the First Church staff and Board of Directors for graciously sharing their building and for working with St. Mark's to create a Sunday worship plan that works for everyone.*

Renovation of the St. Mark's Nave and other worship spaces began in late April and will last 6-8 months.

WHAT TO KNOW:

- Our Sunday service during this transition begins promptly at **9:00 am**, ending by **10:15**, with coffee hour immediately following in St. Mark's Parish Hall at **10:15** so that our host church may prepare for its service at 11:00.
- **BE SURE TO COLLECT A GREEN "GATHER" HYMNAL FROM AN USHER BEFORE FINDING YOUR SEAT.** Hymns from the blue *Hymnal 1982* will be printed in the Order of Worship.
- Please continue to use parking in and around the St. Mark's lots. Ushers and "crossing guards" are available to guide all worshipers before and after services so that all feel welcome, safe, connected, and supported.
- Thursday morning *Contemplative Prayer*, *Holy Eucharist*, and *Bible Study* also meet at First Church (*see back cover for times*.)
- Restrooms are located just inside the foyer to the right (*south*).
- Please do not bring food or beverages into the First Church auditorium.

QUESTIONS? Contact stmarks@stmarksabq.org or call 505.262.2484 and ask for Mother Sylvia; Jennifer Lind, Administrator; or Deb Bluestone, Communications.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church reprints and streams hymns and songs under copyright ONE LICENSE #A-723090. All rights reserved. Scripture translation: *New Revised Standard Edition* (1989). *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) is the primary liturgical resource unless noted otherwise. *Enriching our Worship* (EOW) is a collection of supplemental liturgical materials approved for use in the Episcopal Church General Convention and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM).

TODAY'S COVER ART



**"O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel,
that opens and no one closes, and closes and no one opens:
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison house and those who sit
in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen."**

Today's cover art is by St. Mark's parishioner Susan Swickard.

The O Antiphons are seven ancient prayers by which we prepare for the Christmas season, calling for the coming of Christ among us. The O Antiphons in 2026 take place from December 17-23. They are used each evening during the final week of Advent before Christmas Eve. Each day features a unique title for the coming Messiah drawn from the Old Testament. For the seven weeks leading up to Christmas, the worship bulletin will feature original artwork by members of St. Mark's, inspired by the imagery of the O Antiphons.

For more resources to deepen your Advent prayer practice, including chants, prayer/song cycles for use with Anglican Prayer Beads, and ASL (American Sign Language) interpretations of each O Antiphon, scan the QR Code.

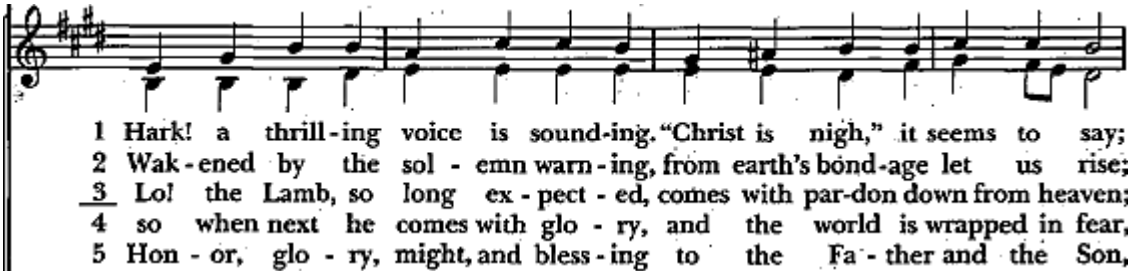
PRELUDE

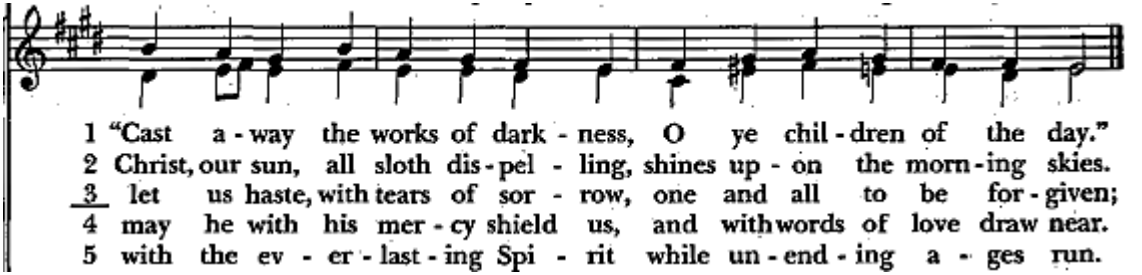
WELCOME

We welcome all children to join in the Entrance Procession, following the Children's Cross, before taking a seat with their families for the Liturgy. Children may select a candle to carry with them in procession throughout the service (at the Entrance, the Gospel, and the Closing Hymn).

OPENING HYMN –*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Please stand.





†

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION – *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), p. 355

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**
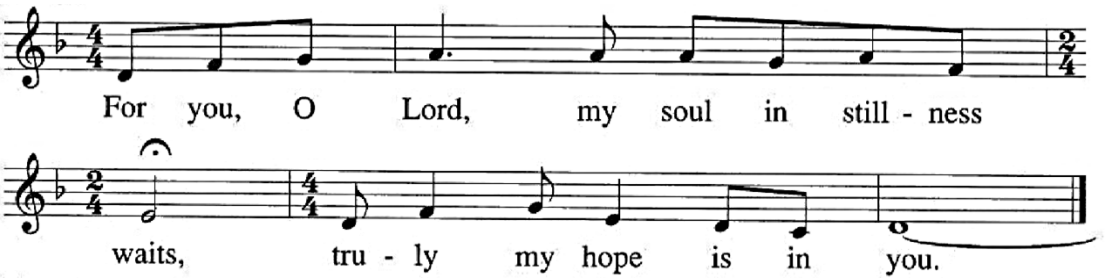
THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

The choir sings the refrain below, then the congregation sings with the choir:

***Refrain*:**



Soloist: O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

All sing the refrain above again.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY – *BCP*, p. 211

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS
Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 40:1-11
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

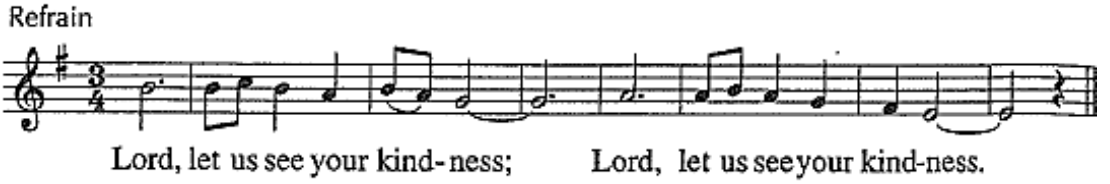
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
***People*: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85

Congregation sings refrain: **"Lord, let us see your kindness; Lord, let us see your kindness."**



1. Let us hear what our God proclaims: Peace to the people of God, salvation is near to the ones who fear God. (*Refrain*)
2. Kindness and truth, justice and peace; truth shall spring up as the water from the earth, justice shall rain from the heavens. (*Refrain*)
3. The Lord will come and you shall know his love, justice shall walk in his pathways, salvation the gift that he brings. (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
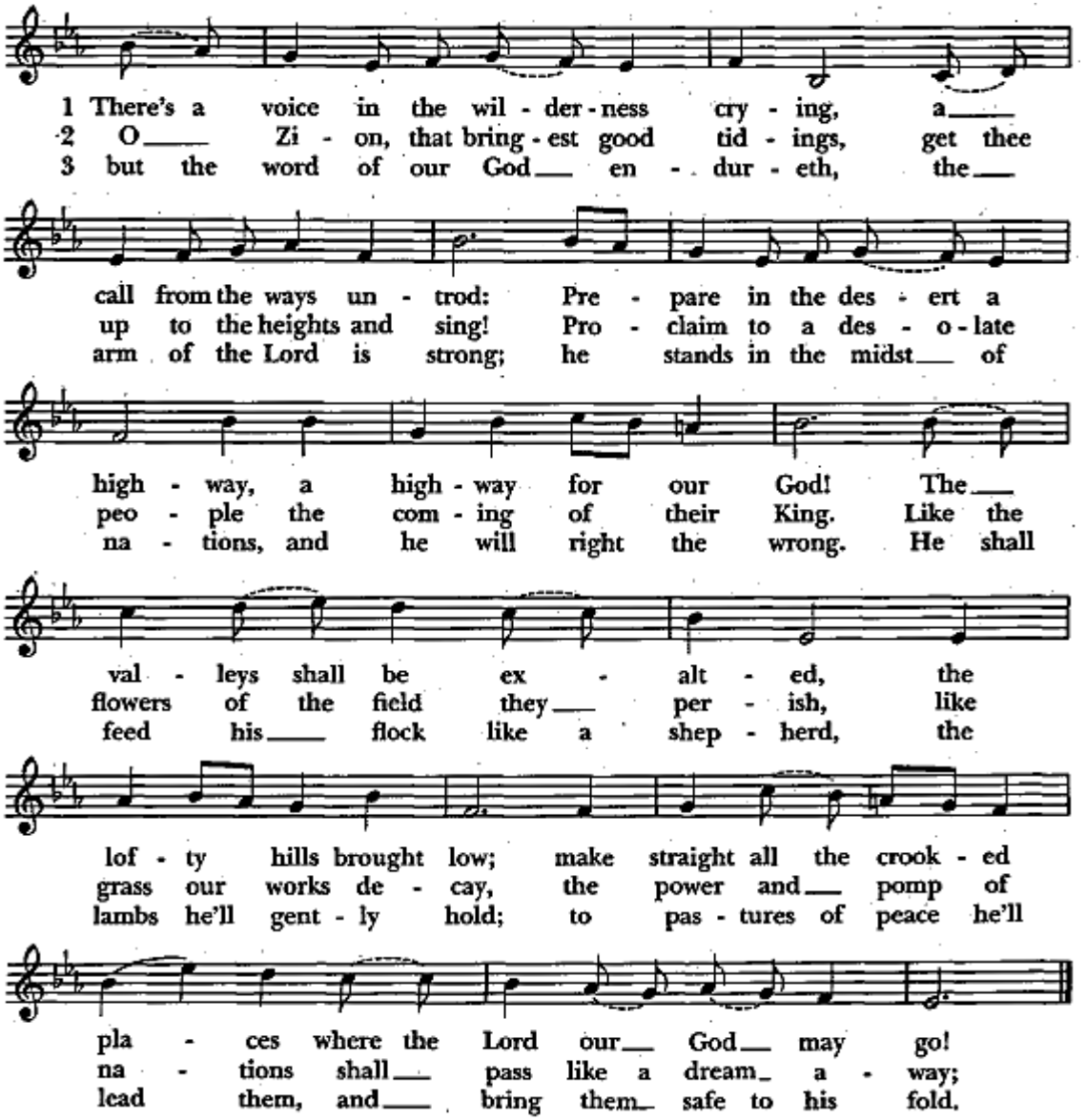
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand. It is customary to turn toward the Gospel Reading.

We welcome all children to join in the Gospel Procession, following the Children's Cross. After the Gospel, children who wish to do so may follow the leader to Children's Chapel in the First Church Fireside Room, returning before Communion.

SEQUENCE HYMN – *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*



THE GOSPEL – Mark 1:1-8

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON – Rev. Christopher McLaren
A brief time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

THE NICENE CREED – *BCP*, p. 358

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.
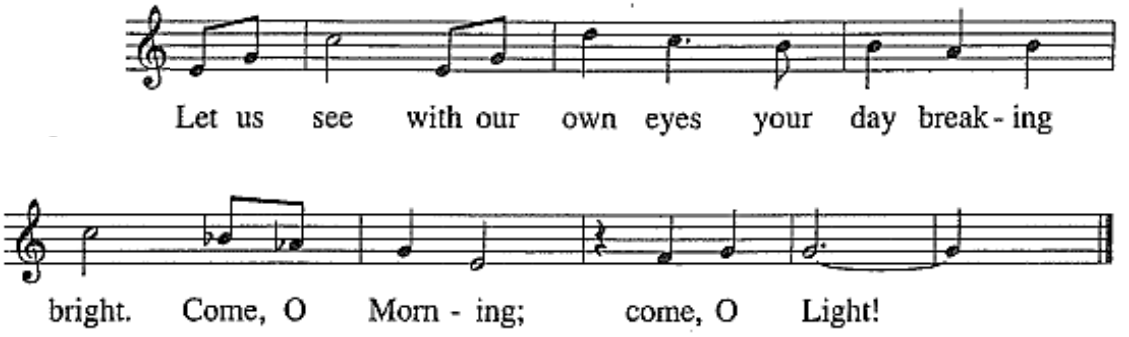
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

PRAYER SONG – *Let Us See*

***All sing refrain:* "Let us see with our own eyes your day breaking bright. Come, O Morning; come, O light!"**



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please add your own personal prayers and intercessions aloud, silently, or in the Zoom chat/Facebook comments during the prayers.

The congregation is invited to hum along with the organ under the prayers.

CONCLUDING COLLECT – *BCP*, p. 395

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN – *BCP*, p. 360

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Presider and People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION – *BCP*, p. 360

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

You may make your offering online at www.stmarksabq.org/give, place your offering in the plate during the collection, or mail your check to the church office: 431 Richmond Pl. NE, Albuquerque NM 87106.

OFFERTORY CHOIR ANTHEM – *Every Valley Shall be Exalted, by John Ness Beck*

The lyrics below are for the congregation's prayerful reflection and reference while the choir sings.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry mountain made low
and the crooked made straight
and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

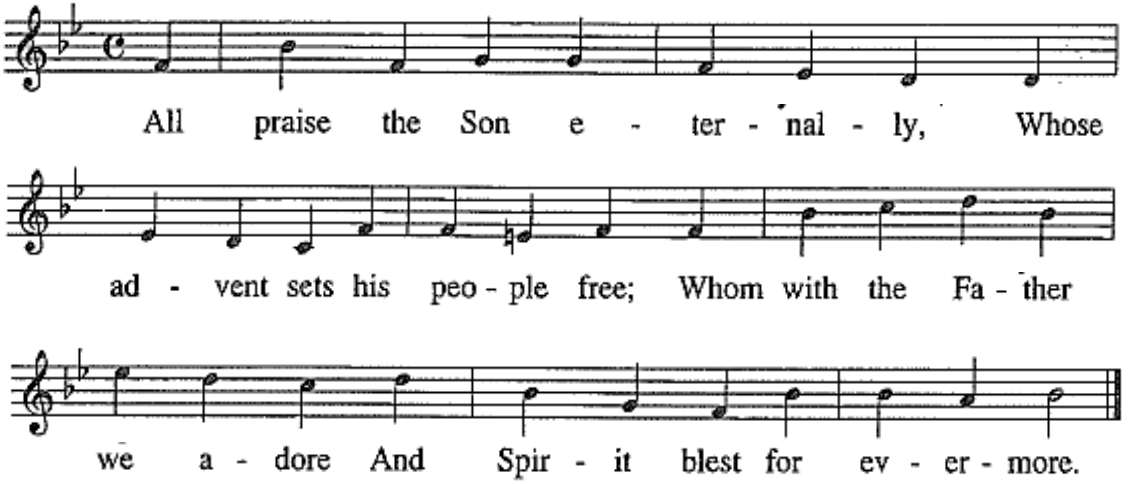
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain made low,
and the crooked straight,
and the rough places plain,
and all flesh shall see it together.
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Amen.

DOXOLOGY – *All Praise the Son*

All sing:

"All praise the Son eternally,
Whose advent sets his people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Spirit blest for ever more."



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THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B – *BCP*, p. 367
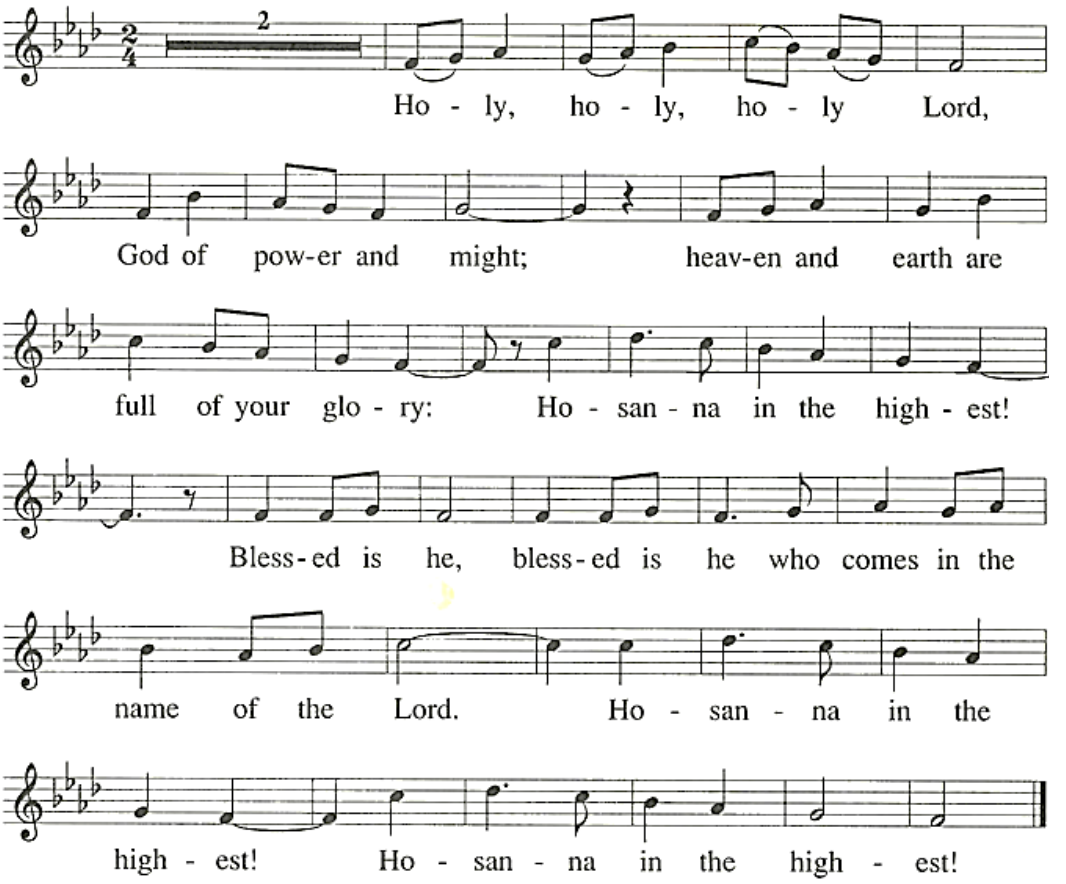
Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS – *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People:
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.
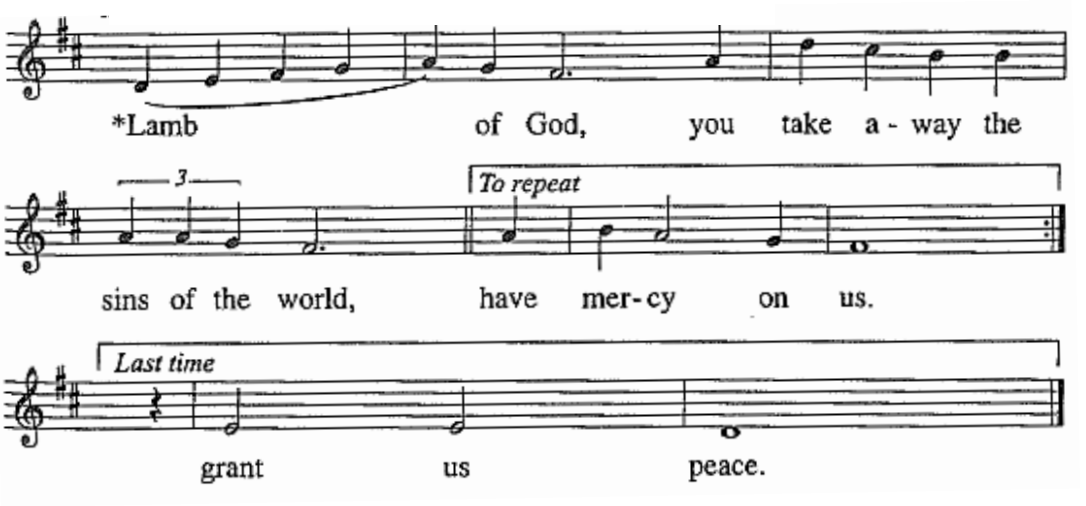
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI – *Lamb of God*

All sing refrain:



COMMUNION

We invite all who seek the presence of Christ to share with us in Holy Communion. The bread is received in the open palm. The wine is taken from the cup by sipping. (Place your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it). To avoid spreading germs, we ask that you do not dip the bread in the wine ("intinction"). If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the person who offers bread to you.

We affirm the ancient tradition of the church that communion in one kind (either bread OR wine) constitutes a full communion. If you or your children are drawn to the altar but do not wish to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have not been baptized and wish to receive communion regularly, please speak with one of the Clergy about baptismal preparation.

COMMUNION HYMN – *Your Mercy Like Rain*
Green Book (*Gather* Hymnal) #330

SENDING FORTH OF OUR LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider: My friends in Christ, I send you out bearing these Holy Gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread and one cup.**
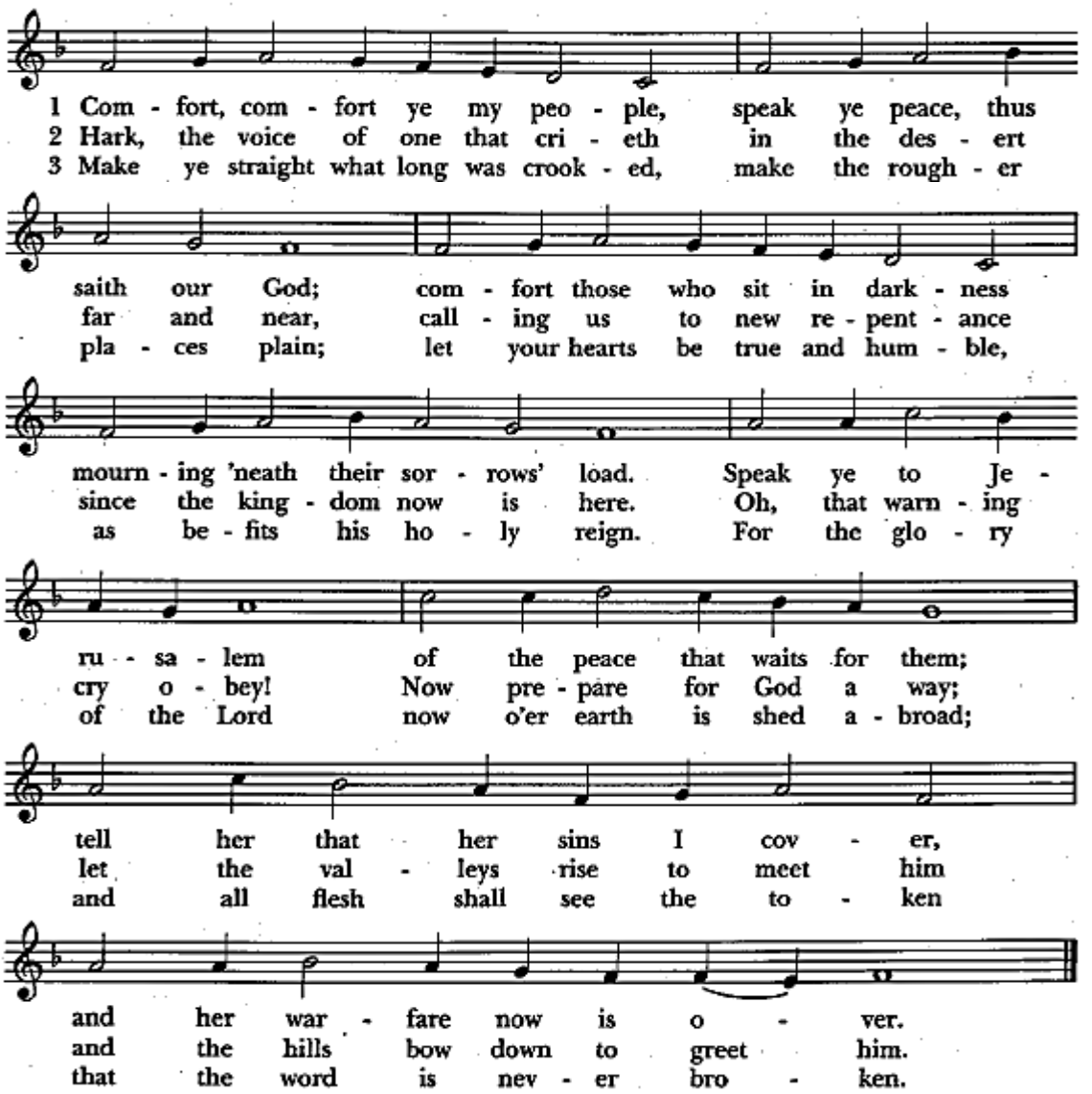
POST COMMUNION PRAYER – *BCP*, p. 366

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People: **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN – *1982 #67 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*



DISMISSAL

SENDING HYMN – *We are Marching in the Light of God!*

We welcome all children to join in the Recessional, following the Children's Cross.

All sing as we process outside and return to St. Mark's:

"We are *marching in the light of God,**
we are *marching* in the light of God.
We are *marching* in the light of God,
we are *marching* in the light of God.
We are *marching*, *marching*, we are *marching*, *marching*,
we are *marching* in the light of God!"

*Alternate text: *dancing*, *singing*, *praying*, etc.

Please join us for coffee in St. Mark's Parish Hall and Courtyard!

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OPENING HYMN 1982 *Hymnal*, #59. Words: Latin, ca. 6th Cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern,* 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935). ● PSALM *Gather* Hymnal, #79. Text: Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL. Music: Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc. ● SEQUENCE HYMN 1982 *Hymnal*, #75. Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904). ● PRAYER SONG *Gather* Hymnal, #330. Text: Psalm 85; Rory Cooney, b. 1952. Tune: Rory Cooney © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. ● DOXOLOGY *Gather* Hymnal, #321 v. 5. Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806-1876. Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, LM; adapt. from *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690. ● SANCTUS *Gather* Hymnal, #291. Music: *Eucharistic Prayer II*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. ● AGNUS DEI *Gather* Hymnal, #314. Music: Holy Cross Mass; David Clark Isele, © 1979, GIA Publications, Inc. ● CLOSING HYMN 1982 *Hymnal*, #67. Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody Claude Goudimel (1514-1572). ● SENDING HYMN *Gather* Hymnal, #512. Text: South African. Tune: South African. © 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

431 Richmond Place NE ● ABQ NM 87106 ● 505.262.2484
www.stmarksabq.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

WEEKLY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

❖ **THURSDAYS**

10:30 am Contemplative Prayer **(First Church auditorium)**
11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II **(Fireside Room & online*)**
12:00 pm Bible Study **(Fireside Room)**

❖ **SUNDAYS**

9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II **(First Church auditorium & online*)**
10:15 am Coffee Hour in St. Mark's Parish Hall and courtyard

*Livestreaming is available from our temporary worship location on Facebook and Zoom. For links, go to stmarksabq.org and click the Upcoming Schedule & Links button. For assistance, please contact St. Mark's during office hours.

ST. MARK'S CLERGY & STAFF

Father Christopher McLaren	**505.331.4638**	**christopher@stmarksabq.org**
Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia	**510.932.1315**	**sylvia@stmarksabq.org**
Deacon David Martin	**505.231.1354**	**edu@stmarksabq.org**

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Kenneth Reese, Treasurer, treasurer@stmarksabq.org
Metta Simons-Stahl, Bookkeeper, finance@stmarksabq.org
Jeremy Wirth, Music Director, music@stmarksabq.org

For a pastoral emergency, contact one of our Clergy. For a ***building emergency***, contact Jennifer Lind or Chris Montgomery. Please leave a phone or text message and we will return your call as quickly as possible.