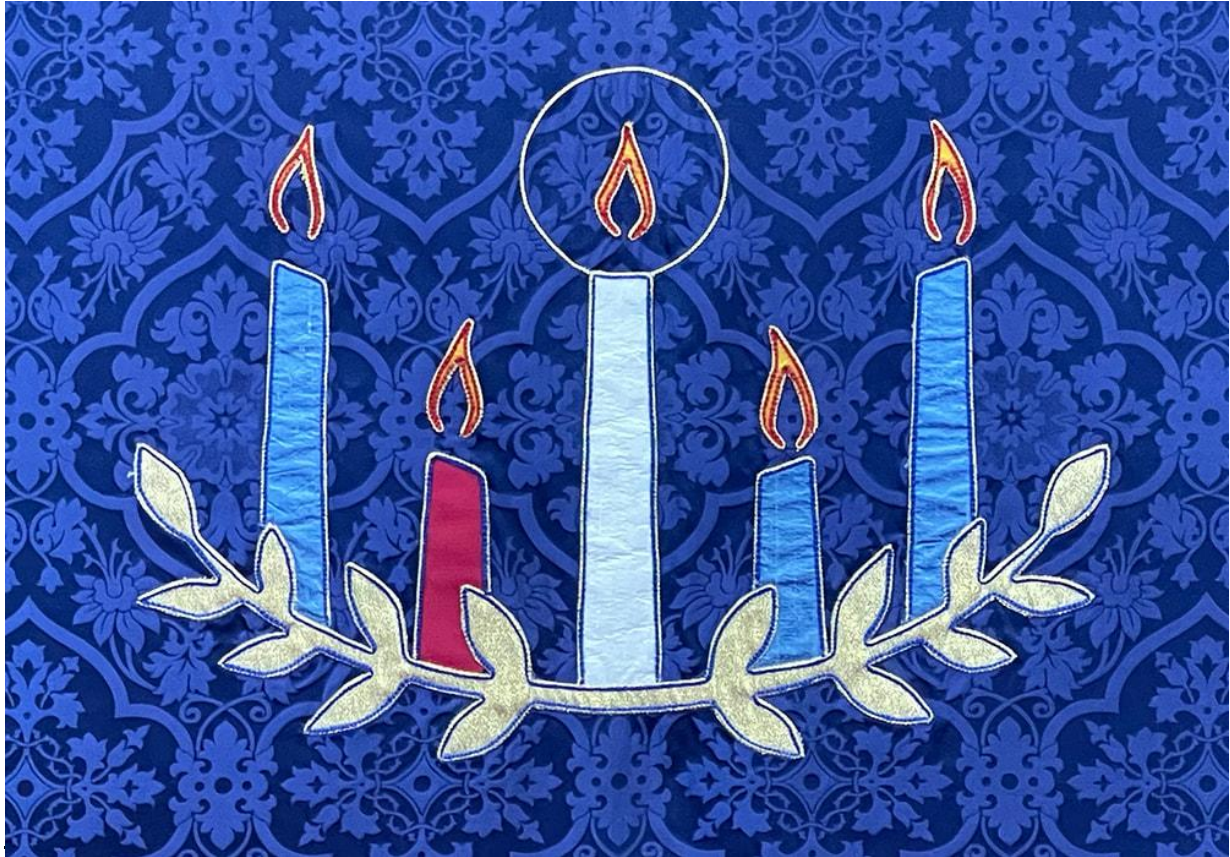




SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 14, 2025 • HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II • 10:30 A.M.
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



WELCOME!

**We celebrate God's love by welcoming all people
into a life with Jesus Christ and each other.**

Your presence blesses us, and we pray this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Whether you are a first-time guest, a longtime member, or somewhere in between, welcome to this place! Together we sing, read, pray, listen, and break bread in thanksgiving and praise of the living God whose love brings new life for us and the world.

Our liturgy comes from The Book of Common Prayer. You will find the accompanying page numbers in this bulletin. It includes the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Table. Please add your voice to our worship as we pray together the prayers printed in bold and sing the hymns found in this bulletin or in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

All baptized Christians – no matter your age or denomination – are welcome to receive communion. If you are more comfortable coming forward for a blessing, please cross your arms and a blessing will be offered over you. Children are a welcome blessing here at St. Mark's. Many depart after the beginning of the service for Children's Chapel.

WORDS OF WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ADVENT PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse, *Rector*

OPENING HYMN “Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

Hymnal 59

Descant



5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

1 “Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day.”
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.
Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935)

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer p. 355

CELEBRANT

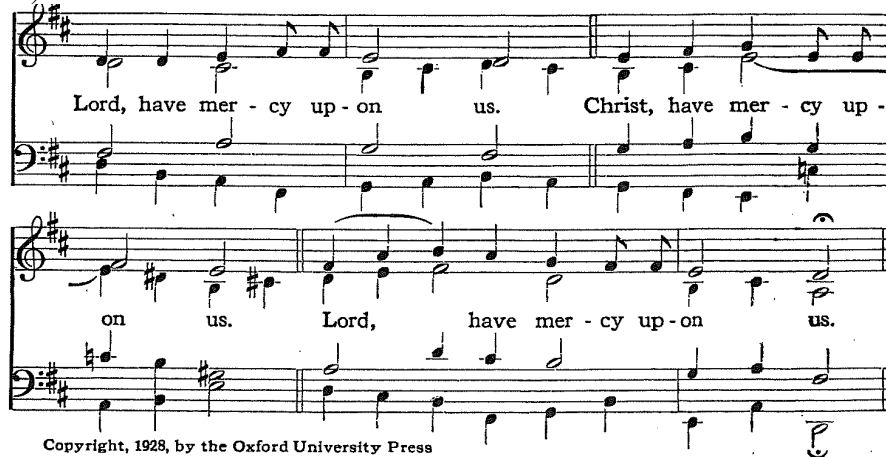
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

CELEBRANT

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.*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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From The Hymnal 1940. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE And also with you.

CELEBRANT Let us pray.

CELEBRANT Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The People may be seated. The Children are invited to depart for Chapel.

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 35:1-10

READER A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY MAGNIFICAT | LUKE 1:46-55 (*Please remain seated as the Choir sings.*)

Plainsong

My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

THE EPISTLE: JAMES 5:7-10

READER A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN “O come, O come, Emmanuel”

Hymnal #56

(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11 *(Please remain standing.)*

GOSPELER The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

PEOPLE **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

GOSPELER The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Chistopher Hilton, *Curate*

THE NICENE CREED *(The People stand and join in saying the Creed together.)*

The Book of Common Prayer 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form III) (The People may stand or kneel.)*
The Leader and People pray responsively

The Book of Common Prayer p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.
 Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.
 We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
 We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
 Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.
 Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.
 Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.
 We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
 Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence may be kept. The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Book of Common Prayer p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister 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 heart;
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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

The Book of Common Prayer p. 360

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.
PEOPLE And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort”

Johann Wolfgang Franck (1644-1710)

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;
O let me ne’er in sorrow pine,
My heart and soul, yea all my being,
O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.
Thou Prince of Peace, Thou Pearl from heaven,
True God, true Man, My Morning Star!
O Come Thou precious, Sun most radiant,
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

O Jesus, why Thy advent quiet
My restless soul and anxious mind
In true humility I welcome Thee,
Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.
My thoughts, desires, and all my longings
I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.
Come Thou precious, Sun most radiant,
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

PRESENTATION HYMN “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry” *(The People stand as the ushers come forward.)*

Hymnal 76

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B *(The People remain standing.)**The Book of Common Prayer p. 367*

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them to the Lord.**

CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

CELEBRANT 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD: SANCTUS *(Sung by all.)*

S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) | Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.; Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-729915.

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant then praises God for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ our Lord and recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues...

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

FRACTION ANTHEM *(Sung by all.)*

S 164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

CELEBRANT The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The People sit. Please follow the directions of the ushers. The altar of Saint Mark's Church is God's Table, and all are welcome. If you are more comfortable coming forward for a blessing, please cross your arms and a blessing will be offered over you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Please join the Choir in singing Hymns 54 and 63.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken by all, standing.)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMENDATION OF THOSE TAKING COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND *(As needed.)*

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" *(All join in singing.)*

Hymnal #616

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
2 He comes with speedy to those who suffer wrong,
3 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,

1 Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
2 to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like fountains, spring in his path to birth:

1 He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
2 to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
3 before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;

1 to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2 whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
3 and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Ps. 72 | Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; harm *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Davies (1869-1941)

DISMISSAL

DEACON Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "O Thou of God the Father"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC NOTES

Our beloved Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ (Opus 1391) is “away” undergoing a complete restoration. We expect it to return in early 2026. We are grateful to the parishioners, community members, and foundations who have come forward to graciously support our preservation of this historic instrument. Our project is now fully funded, thanks be to God. We anticipate the organ will be complete in time for Easter!

We are grateful for Jerome Wells, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus, for graciously sharing his talents with us this morning while Jordan is away.

ADVENT AT ST. MARK'S

LA POSADA

DEC 14 | 5 PM

Travel with Mary and Joseph on their journey to find lodging before the birth of Jesus. After, we will head upstairs to Payne Hall for dinner, music, and pinatas!

STOCKINGS FOR SENIORS

DEC 21 | 9:15AM

Everyone is invited to Payne Hall to stuff stockings for homebound seniors.

BROWN BUTTER CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE SALE BENEFITTING FRIDAY MORNING MINISTRY

THE SAME COOKIES SOLD AT THE CHILI SUPPER
ARE BACK!

EACH ONE IS INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED AND
BOXED WITH A RED RIBBON
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PRESALE ONLY:

ORDERS ARE DUE BY THURSDAY THE 18TH.
PICKUP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST IN THE
CLOISTER BETWEEN SERVICES AND AFTER THE
10:30 SERVICE.

PAYMENT DUE AT PICKUP (CASH, CHECK, OR
CARD).

TOMMY WILLIAMSON OF SALON WEST IS
DONATING ALL SUPPLIES, SO 100% OF PROCEEDS
GO TO FMM.

ORDERS ARE LIMITED, DON'T MISS OUT!

**\$25 FOR
A BAKER'S
DOZEN**

the longest night

Chapel Service

*For those experiencing pain
and loss during the holidays.*

Thursday, December 18

6 p.m. in Longe Chapel

First United Methodist Church Beaumont
701 Calder Ave.

For some, Christmas is a difficult season as we see joy all around us but feel the pain of loss and grief. The Longest Night Service on December 18th at 6pm in the FUMC's Longe Chapel is a time to acknowledge these feelings and offer them to God for healing and transformation. Walk with all those who are hurting as we pray that you find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Attendees are encouraged to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed to place on the altar during the service.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 | 5PM **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

Carols, readings, and anthems tell the story of God's redeeming love. Prelude begins at 4:45PM. Nursery provided. Livestreamed. Reception follows.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 4PM **CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST**

A family service featuring Children's Sermon and beautiful music with Choirs and Organ. Nursery provided. Livestreamed.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 7PM **CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST**

A joyous, festival service with Parish Choir and Organ.

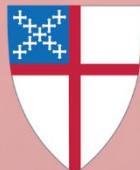
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10AM **CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST**

A reflective, spoken service to celebrate Jesus' birth.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:30AM **CHRISTMAS CAROLS & HOLY EUCHARIST**

End the year at St. Mark's with your favorite carols!

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
680 CALDER | DOWNTOWN BEAUMONT





THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (*Spoken*)
9:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation (*The Cloister*)
9:15 a.m. Formation
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*With Music*)
5:00 p.m. La Posada

Monday, December 15

12:00 p.m. AA

Tuesday, December 16

10:00 a.m. Al-Anon
12:00 p.m. Healing Service
12:00 p.m. AA

Wednesday, December 17

12:00 p.m. AA
5:45 p.m. Handbells
6:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Al-Anon
6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service (at FUMC)

Friday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Friday Morning Ministry

SAVE THE DATE

December 21 Lessons & Carols at 5 p.m.
December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4 & 7 p.m.
December 25 Christmas Day Service 10 a.m. (*Spoken*)
December 28 Christmas Carol Sing at 10:30 a.m.
January 11 Burning of the Greens at 5 p.m.
January 30 Treasure House Jubilee at 6 p.m.

CLERGY AND PROGRAM STAFF

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*
The Rev. Dr. James M. Pevehouse, *Rector*
The Rev. Christopher Hilton, *Curate*
The Rev. Keith Giblin, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Tracie Middleton, *Deacon*
Jordan Williams, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Genevieve Brassard, *Assistant Director of Music*
Jerome Wells, *Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus*
Lauren Johnsen, *Director of Family Ministry*
Paula O'Neal, *Director of Outreach*

Vestry

Josh Allen, *Senior Warden*
Ryan Schiesler, *Junior Warden*
Jan Blessing, *Treasurer*
James Black, *Chancellor*

2026

Josh Allen
Rebecca Boone
Scootie Clark
Ryan Schiesler
Becky Underhill

2027

Gail Davis
Floyd McSpadden
Pat Sherwood
Ed Stedman
Charles Teel

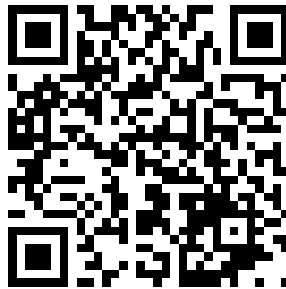
2028

Bob Birdwell
Ali Corcoran
Josh Crawford
Maris Mehaffy
Laurel Shrontz



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

I'M NEW!



GIVE TO ST. MARK'S



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