



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fincastle, Virginia

10:00 a.m.

December 7, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Service of Holy Communion, Rite I

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

OPENING HYMN

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

#67

- 1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
 speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
 mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.
- 2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth
 in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
 since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.
- 3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
 make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
 as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

Comfort, comfort ye my people, #67 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 323

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

THE SUMMATION OF THE LAW

BCP 324

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

KYRIE

Anna Preston

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 159

Merciful God, who sent thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN

People Sit

A READING FROM **ROMANS 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 **That he may rule your people righteously ***
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 **He shall defend the needy among the people; ***
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 **He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, ***
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.
- 18 **Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, ***
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

GRADUAL HYMN

HARK! A THRILLING VOICE (vs. 1, 2, 3)

#59

- 1 **Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:**
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."
- 2 **Wakened by the solemn warning,**
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 **Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,**
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, #59 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW 3:1-12

[Before the Gospel, **"Glory be to thee, O Lord."** After the Gospel, **"Praise be to Thee, O Christ."**]

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

People Sit

THE SERMON

THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN

People Stand

THE NICENE CREED (ALL)

BCP 327

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;**

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PARISH PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world, remembering especially all
on our Pews News Prayer list.

(The congregation responds with "Jesus, hear our prayer".)

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 330

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

BCP 332

Celebrant:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with
heartly repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

COMFORTABLE WORDS

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

THE PEACE & WELCOME

BCP 332

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Beautiful are the Feet

G. F. Handel

People Stand

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow

#380 (v. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host:

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, RITE I, PRAYER 2

BCP 340

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

SURSUM CORDA

BCP 340

SANCTUS

Anna Preston

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

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.

FRACTION

BCP 337

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

Anna Preston

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP 338

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (All Pray Together)

[from the South African Book of Common Prayer (1989).]

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.

May your body and blood be my food and drink.

May your passion and death be my strength and life.

Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love which you offer but hold me safe from the forces of evil.

On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes when, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. *Amen.*

COMMUNION

He Shall Feed His Flock

G. F. Handel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

#65

- 1 Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

*Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.*

- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Refrain

Prepare the way, O Zion, #65 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

DISMISSAL

BCP 340

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Still, Still, Still

St. Mark's Weekly Prayer List

Prayer requests for individuals and families are left on for 4 Sundays unless requested. If you wish for someone to be left on longer, please let the office know at the time you make the request.

IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Patrick Funkhouser; Erin Funkhouser; Nathan Bradley; Mason Alexander; Reeve Alexander; Jimmy Brown; Eric Burton; Ali Taha; Griffith Wood; Logan Ching; and First Responders.

THANKSGIVING: For those celebrating birthdays this week:

Walter Michael (12/9); Mahlon Kidd (12/11).

SEMINARIANS: Parker Hughes.

THOSE IN NEED:

Danielle Alexander
Carol Anderson
Jason Christian Bayer
The Rev. Sue Bentley
Cousin Beth
John Beverley
Lucile Bondurant
The Rev. Bob Brodie
Kris Browning
Adam Burkley
Bruce & Gabrielle Clouser
Marla Cook
Angela Coon
Cora
Jacob Crawford
Jeremiah Crawford
Suzanne Cronise
Bryce Dalton
Nonie Diebold
Connie Diez
Josh diPalma
Carma Duffy
Christine E.
Evelyn Edwards
Claire Ferguson

Brooke Forney
Chelsea G. H.
Chuck Geiger
Crofton Held
Pat Honts
Tommy Hunter
Meg Johnson
Ed Johnston
Sharon LaVonne Kidwell
Stephanie Keith
Yvonne Killers
Allen Layman
Helen Madine-Gregory
Si Mandros
Darlene Martin
Mary
Laura Holt McCann
Ella Mitchell
Joe Mix
Liz Moore
Charley Neil
Edward Neil
Matthew Neil
Penny Neil
Judy Newbern

Marie Nganele
David Ostrowski
Gary Overbay
Janet P.
Doug Paysour
Roderick Plenge
Sis Proffitt
Roman
Brook Roncinske
Mario Saade
Savannah
Sue Spickard
Al Suite
Suzanne
Mike Thompson
Sherry Vinson
Virginia
Charlie Webb
Jerry Webb
Gary Welch
Chad Whitaker
Denise Williamson
Bruce Wilsie
Kim Wyrick

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Jerry C. Dupree; Dean Wilkerson.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING: Marjorie Dupree, Mike Dudding, and Dewease, Thomas, Austin, & Baker families; Wilkerson family and Anna Talbot Guillote.

St. Mark's Prayer Ministries

Willis and Jake are available to talk and pray: call, email or text them.

We Care Ministry: A prayer and service ministry for St. Mark's

Contact: Carole Geiger (geiger.caroleb@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain: Emergency situations contact Susan Hays by phone (540) 884-2555

Parish Activities – Week of December 7, 2025

Sunday, December 7 – The Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am - Adult Education class in the Education room – *Advent Begins in the Dark*

10:00am - Holy Communion, Rite I

Monday, December 8

12:00pm - Bridge Group meets

2:00pm - Daughters of the King meeting

Tuesday, December 9

11:00am - Holy Communion at The Glebe
followed by lunch

7:00pm - Open AA

Wednesday, December 10

7:30pm - **Advent Devotions: Visio Divina** co-
led by Jake Webb & Jenine Culligan – Zoom
only (*uses Evening Prayer link*)

Thursday, December 11

10:00am - Dorcas Needlework Guild

12:05pm - Last Brown Bag Bible Study until 8
January

Friday, December 12

Office Closed

Saturday, December 13

9:30am - Food Pantry

7:00pm - Open AA meeting

Serving Us Today

CELEBRANT & PREACHER: THE REV. G. WILLIS
LOGAN

LEM/INTERCESSOR: MEGGAN LAUCHER

2ND CHALICE BEARER: WALTER MICHAEL

LECTOR: KATE PARISH

ACOLYTE: COLLIN MURPHY

MUSICIAN: ANNA PRESTON

GUEST MUSICIAN: LAINEY PARKER (FROM OPERA
ROANOKE)

ALTAR GUILD: SALLY WAID, KAREN WILLIS

COUNTERS: MICHELLE COOK, TBD

USHERS: DAN & ROBIN COLLINS

The Rev. G. Willis Logan, Rector

Jake Webb, Assistant to the Rector

Gina Painter, Office Manager/Vestry Clerk

Jim Johnston, Treasurer

Tommy Hunter, Organist Emeritus

Anna Preston, Music Minister

Allison Caldwell & Ana Uotinen, Children/Youth Ministers

Vestry (Lay Leadership)

Charlotte Hagan (Senior Warden) * Phil Coffey (Junior Warden)

John Alexander * Michelle Cook * Jenine Culligan

Meggan Laucher * Mike Parish

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 277, (111 S. Roanoke St.), Fincastle, VA 24090

Phone: 540-473-2370

stmarksfincastle.org

willis@stmarksfincastle.org (Willis)

jake@stmarksfincastle.org (Jake)

office@stmarksfincastle.org (Gina)

music@stmarksfincastle.org (Anna)

buildings@stmarksfincastle.org (Phil Coffey, Walter Michael)

jjoh68@cox.net (Jim Johnston, Treasurer)

accounting@stmarksfincastle.org (Cornerstone Franciscan Ministries)