



Welcome to St. Mark's!
*God has joyfully brought us together
for such a time as this!*

Guests and Visitors – Let's connect in life and faith together.
“Welcome” cards are in the pews for you to provide your contact information. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers or pastors. Thanks!



Advent Theme: Now in Flesh Appearing
November 27, 2022 - The First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship Servants:

Greeter:	Bill Hadlock & Debbie Rice
Ushers(s):	Bart Mays, Whitey Meadows & Terrie Tidwell
Lector:	Debbie Rice
Acolyte:	Reagan Goethals
Communion Assistant:	Mark Relyea

+ indicates we stand in body and/or spirit * indicates we are seated

Welcome

Prelude

+Opening Dialogue

(texts from John 1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word was in the beginning with God. Through the Word, all things came into being.

The Word of God was a person, a flesh and bone human who lived and walked among us.

The Word is Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Prince of Peace and Word made Flesh.

Come together, children of God, and worship the One who dwelt among us.

Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

+Prayer of Confession

Word of God made flesh,

Long before stories were told or books were written, the Word was with God and the Word was God. However, we have worshiped other words; we have mistaken the Word made flesh for printed words, for words in our own language, for cruel words, and for words that divide and dehumanize us. Lord God, we humbly repent and return to the beginning, to the Word, Your Word, through whom all other words came into being, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. In his name we pray for forgiveness.

(Time of silent reflection and confession)

Absolution

Hymn ELW 438 My Lord, What a Morning
(offering is brought forward by ushers during hymn)



* Advent Candle Lighting

The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

Today we light the candle of hope, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.
(Lighting of candle)

* Candle Lighting Hymn ELW 253

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.*
*He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.*

Let us pray, Word of God made flesh, you came to us in Spirit as you hovered over the waters of creation. You came to us in bodily form in the very human person of your son, Jesus. Throughout history and time, we have never been truly alone. You abide with us in every tear we shed, every joy-filled laugh, and every deep breath of sleep. During this Advent season, we remember you know our human needs, our hunger, our thirst, our need for connection, our exhaustion, and even our boredom. We have hope because our humanness no longer separates us from you, O God. **Amen.**

* First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

* Psalm 122 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

¹I was glad when they¹ said to me, “Let us go to the house¹ of the Lord.”

²**Now our¹ feet are standing within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built¹ as a city that is at unity¹ with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes¹ of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name¹ of the Lord. R**

⁵For there are the¹ thrones of judgment, the thrones of the¹ house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace¹ of Jerusalem: “May they pros-¹per who love you.**

⁷Peace be with-¹ in your walls and quietness with-¹ in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred¹ and companions, I pray for¹ your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the¹ Lord our God, I will seek to¹ do you good.”

* Second Reading Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

+ **Gospel Acclamation ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (vs. 1)**

Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

Hymn ELW 295 Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Apostles’ Creed p.105

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer

Affirmation of Hope

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the hope of our faith: From our first breaths of life to our final moments before death, our bodies tell God’s story of hope.

We are created to attach, to connect, and to live in community. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in the dependence of babies who know their help is coming when they cry.

We are created to need one another. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in children who ask, explore, experiment, and wonder.

We are created to enjoy creation. This is our hope.

We hear the story of in teenagers who notice injustice, waste, and hypocrisy.

We are created to advocate for each other. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in middle age, when questions of identity and purpose find depth and discovery.

We are created to be distinctly and uniquely beloved. This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in our older adults who pursue passions formed by decades of wisdom and experience.

We are created to attach, to connect, to live in community. This the hope of our faith.

Benediction

Hymn ELW 239 Hark the Glad Sound

Postlude

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Now in Flesh Appearing -

Over the past 3 years, I've had the joy of sharing some memorable moments in my family. Two of those memorable moments were the birth of my nephew Lyle to Mandy's sister & husband; and the birth of my niece Riley to my sister Abby & her husband. As I think back on to before both of them were born, there was a lot of anticipation and excitement in our family. Everyone was eager to welcome these two wonders into the world. Everyone waited to hear from moms and dads (to be) as pregnancies progressed to hear about the health of their babies. Speaking for Mandy and I, we both dreamed of how we would for years to come spoil our nieces and nephews (how we would give them extra treats when they visited and the late-night parties we would throw when they stayed with us for sleepovers as they grew).

Maybe you can recall a similar excitement in the anticipation of the birth of a niece or nephew, son or daughter, cousin, grandchild or even great-grand. We have had many families at St. Mark's recently share in the anticipation and excitement of welcoming a new addition to their family: Dylan & Courtney West, Ellen & Michael McAndrew, Eddie & Jennifer Rodriguez, and Anna & Matthew Hofer, just to name a few!

Throughout this Advent, a theme that we will uplift in our worship, activities, and prayers together is the words from the Christmas favorite hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. The phrase is "Now in Flesh Appearing." Advent is a time like many of you have experienced; a time of waiting and preparation, anticipation, and excitement as the wonder of the Christmas story draws closer and closer again.

Here's an anticipatory thought about Christmas as we enter this season of Advent. Every year, Christmas tends to have a spirit of "newness." Though Jesus, the Son of God made flesh, was born some 2,000 years ago, hearing that story every year is in a way like hearing about a "new beginning." So what "new beginnings" is God calling St. Mark's Lutheran Church to prepare for and anticipate with excitement as a year comes to a close and a new year begins; and as we journey towards the night of remembering and proclaiming, "*Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*" - Pastor Vern