

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Our mission is to know Jesus Christ and to make him known.

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist Rite II



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*****PLEASE READ*****

If anyone in your group had any of the following symptoms this week, please worship with us Online:

- Fever Over 100
- Cough or Sore Throat
- Shortness of Breath
- Contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 (in the past 14 days)

Please confirm that no one in your group has had any of the above and are, therefore, all eligible to attend.

If you attend, and discover that you have been exposed to someone who tests positive, or you test positive, please let Rev. Susie or Kimberly Hart know so we can inform other attendees and close and sanitize.

St. Mark's Giving Tree – Last Day to Bring Gifts

All gifts need to be in the Narthex by **TODAY** or by 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 7th for delivery to the Rainbow Room. If you do not drop off today or Monday, please contact the church office or Rhonda Yamauchi at 281-639-0043 to arrange for the gifts to be picked up. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need this Christmas!

Lessons & Carols

Please join us Sunday, December 13, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, as we present *A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols* with the St. Mark's choir, handbells, and chamber ensemble.

Christmas Caroling at St. Mark's

Mark your calendars! Let's sing carols outside with Tom Thompson leading us, on Sunday, December 20th at 9 a.m!

Tuesday Bible Study

On Tuesdays, the Brown Bag Bible Study group will begin an **overview of Isaiah, and then focus on the four Servant Songs of Isaiah**, which will be a wonderful way to step into Advent together. We meet by Zoom on Tuesdays at noon. Please email Rev. Susie if you are interested in joining.

Adult Christian Formation

On Wednesdays, at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom, **Adult Formation** classes will resume, and we will be looking together at Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book, "**Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times**", published in 2020. It is available in a variety of digital and paper formats.

Let Rev. Susie know by email if you are interested in joining the formation class. (If you are interested, and have a conflict with that time, let Rev. Susie know, and she'll work to set up another group.)

Fort Bend Family Promise

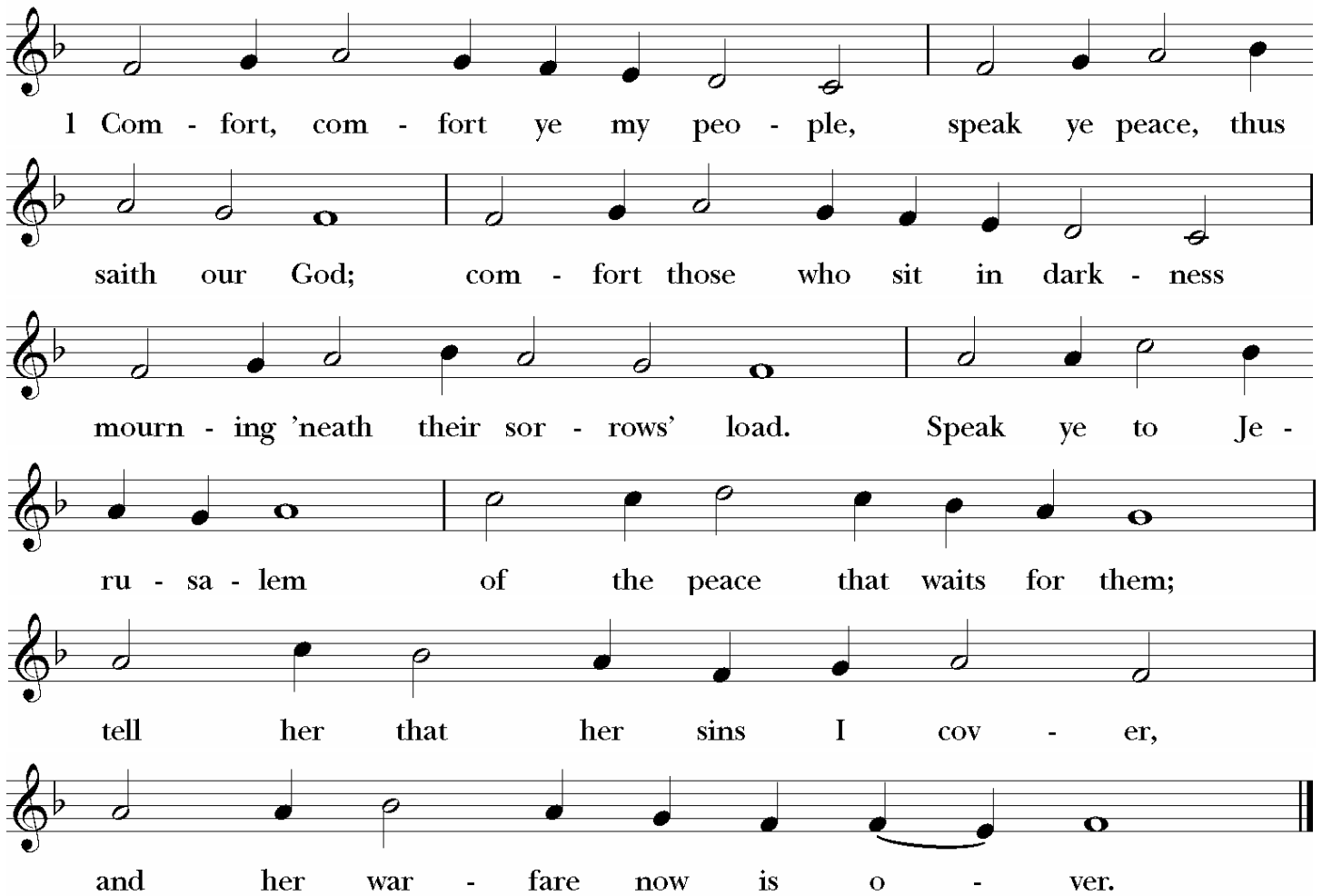
Next year starting in January we are providing four weeks of meals to families that Fort Bend Family Promise is helping to stabilize: one week of meals per quarter in 2021. (This is a national ministry that works to stabilize families that are homeless into stable homes. All these families are identified through the school system and have children). January 4 through January 9 is our first week. Can you cook a meal for a group or deliver it? Let Rev. Susie know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn: Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymnal 67



The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'I Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.'

I Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cov - er,
and her war - fare now is o - ver.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

People

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.*

The people remain standing

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.*

All sit.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

"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 forever. 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.

After the Reading, the Reader says

	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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.

After the Reading, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: Once he came in blessing
verse 1 before Gospel; verse 2 after Gospel

Hymnal 53

The musical score is written on three staves in a key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the hymn with a double bar line.

1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 1:1-8

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."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

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

The Sermon **The Reverend Susie Comer**

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant and People, all standing

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.

All remain standing.

Prayers of the People Form VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector our Bishops; and for all bishops
and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The Leader then prays from the Prayer Intercessory list.

After the list is prayed, the Celebrant will invite other prayers to be said aloud or in silence.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The Celebrant will invite thanksgivings to be offered aloud or in silence.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant says the concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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 Celebrant then 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 Celebrant says to the people

	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another from a distance in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

FOR THE ABSENT

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Hymn: Prepare the way of the Lord" (Tom Thompson) – sung by St. Mark's Choir

The People stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Doxology:

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.

Tune: Old Hundredth

**The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer A**

All baptized persons are invited and encouraged to receive communion in our church.

The People remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

	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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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,

People and Celebrant

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

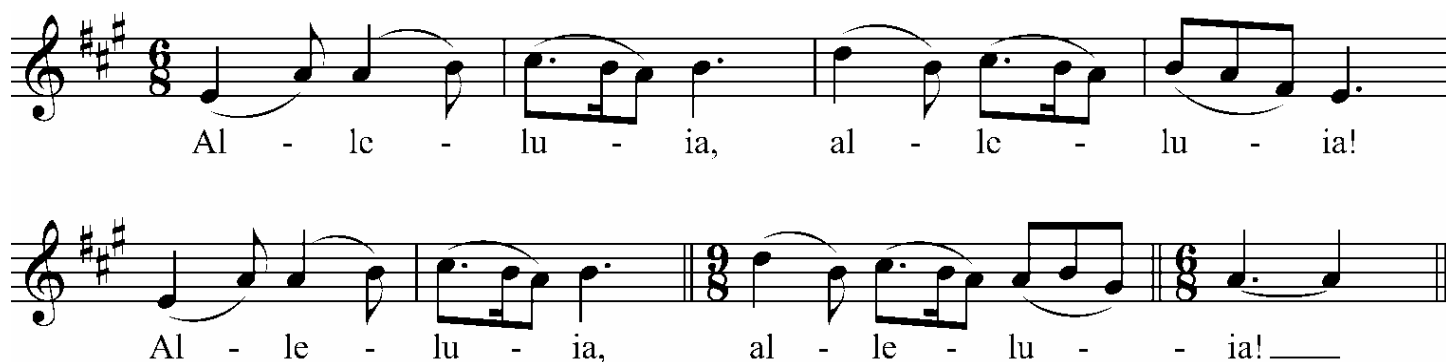
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Then the celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celtic Alleluia

MHSO 20



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Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

[only the host will be distributed at this time]

§

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord.

1.-4. *Final ending* **Fine**

1. Make straight in the
2. Fill ev - 'ry
3. Go up to a
4. Say to all

D.S.

1. des - ert a high - way for our God.
2. val - ley, bring all moun - tains low.
3. moun - tain and shout with a loud voice.
4. peo - ple, here is your God.

After Communion, the people stand or kneel, and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

The Blessing

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Celebrant dismisses them with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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St. Mark's Core Values

Gracious. In our relationship with Christ, God welcomes us home, and we, in turn, offer gracious hospitality to all those whom God leads to our church.

Rooted. Our worship and liturgy are rooted in the rich tradition of the Episcopal Church, drawing on the wellspring of customs from the ancient church through those of today.

Authentic. We are an authentic people, true to our Christian identity, and genuinely thankful for the gift of our gathering and for the sacred space of our church.

Christ-centered. We are the church, the Body of Christ, and we therefore have Jesus Christ at the center of our life; for in the risen Christ we live and move and have our being.

Empowered. Jesus commissions us to go to all nations with his good news, and we, the people of St. Mark's, are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim by word and example the Gospel in Fort Bend County and beyond.

The Reverend Susie Comer
Rector

Kimberly Hart
Executive Administrative Assistant

Tom Thompson
Organist & Music Director

Jerri Carington
School Director