

A photograph of a table set for a meal, featuring bread, a salad, and cups, overlaid with a dark blue filter and a decorative white border. The background is a dark blue gradient with faint white starburst patterns.

*A PLACE AT
THE TABLE*

**ST. MARK
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
Office Phone: 419-691-3597
FAX: 419-691-8952

611 WOODVILLE ROAD
Toledo, Ohio 43605
Website: stmarktoledo.com

Traditional Worship: 8:30 am
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 am

Pastor: Beth Giller

Youth & Family Life Director: Emily Hemminger
Music Director: Cheryl Dunlap
President: Tom Ritter

Pastoral Care: Cindy Ritter
Organist: Kim Fletcher
Vice President: Paul Edler

WELCOME TO ST. MARK! If you are a visitor please worship with us again. Please send us an email if you are a guest, or need to update your information or you need assistance to smlc.office@yahoo.com. We also want to know if there have been any changes to your address or phone number, you can call the office or email with the new information.

Upon entrance to the lobby from the parking lot, **AN ELEVATOR** is located down the corridor immediately to the right. It will take you to the sanctuary. **ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available from an usher.

As we continue to make decisions about worship and gathering in the building with appropriate COVID precautions in place, the St. Mark leadership will continue to consider the recommendations of the CDC and the Lucas County Health Department. Please feel free to mask if you have concerns about your own health or the health of others in your “bubble.” As always, please wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated. Thanks for your ongoing patience and compassion as we move ahead.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK - You are welcome here this Christmas season! Join us each Sunday in Advent at 8:30am & 10:30am for our Advent series "The Inn", where we will explore the call to radical hospitality. Christmas Eve services on Friday, December 24th will be held at 4:00pm (*Family Service & Kids Christmas Program*) and 11:00pm (*Candlelight Service*). On Sunday, December 26th, we will worship together at **one service at 9:00am.**

(Italics represent the 10:30 service music, Lyrics are in the back of this bulletin)

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #257 – “O COME, O COME EMMANUEL” VERSES 3 & 4

(“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to be a people of Peace. May the Advent of Compassion be born in us, reside within us, and move outward from us, to meet the needs of the world, setting a place at the table for each and every child of God; Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: Like the childhood game of “musical chairs,” we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters—this is the fruit of what is right and good.

**Peace waits for us at Advent
Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
of gentleness and play.
Peace is born in us each day!**

Leader: Today we offer the Light of Peace to illuminate the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy. (*Repeat song*)

(Children’s Sermon)

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

⁹ This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. ¹⁰ I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. ¹¹ I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple harmonic accompaniment with a melody in the treble staff.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" are written below the treble staff. The music continues the harmonic accompaniment from the first line, ending with a double bar line.

BARUCH 5:1-5

¹Take off your mourning clothes and oppression, Jerusalem! Dress yourself in the dignity of God's glory forever. ²Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe. Place the eternal one's glory on your head like a crown. ³God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven. ⁴God will give you this name by which to be called forever: The Peace That Comes from Justice, The Honor That Comes from Reverence for God!

⁵Get up, Jerusalem! Stand on the high place, and look around to the east! See your children gathered from the west to the east by the holy one's word, as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

SERMON – “A PLACE AT THE TABLE”

PASTOR CINDY RITTER

HYMN #722 – “O CHRIST, YOUR HEART, COMPASSIONATE”

(“Peace on Earth” – Offering)

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

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.

PRAYERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

(Prayers & Lord's Prayer)

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

HYMN #239 – “HARK THE GLAD SOUND”

(“Hope of the Nations”)

(Benediction & Dismissal)

POSTLUDE

LYRICS

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Laura Story, Cliff Duren, Arr. Jared Haschek

© Laura Stories, New Spring (Admin.By Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc)

Psalm Singer (Admin Music Services), CCLI #1526594

Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart

Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thy own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thine glorious throne

Chorus

Come now great Redeemer,

Come Emmanuel

Bless the nations with Your presence here

Born our souls to rescue,

Born to save Your very own

*Long expected Jesus,
Make our hearts Your home
(Repeat Chorus)*

Tag

Come now long expected Jesus
Come now long expected Jesus

PEACE ON EARTH

Paul Baloche, Michael Rossback, Arr. Shane Ohlson
2016 Integrity Worship Music, Leadworship Songs (Admin by CapitolCMGPublishing.com)
MichaelRossback Music, CCLI #1526594

Verse 1

We come before You with hardships and fears
We lay down our burdens, Lord draw us near
Blind to injustice, we've turned our eyes
Lord heal our brokenness, raise us to life

Chorus

*Peace on earth, peace on earth
Lord hear our pray'r, Your peace on earth
Peace on earth, peace on earth
Lord hear our pray'r, Your peace on earth*

Tag 1

Peace, peace, peace

Verse 2

Jesus our Saviour, You've made us one
Walls of division, torn down by love
The cross has redeemed us, all penance paid
Love through forgiveness, we have been saved

Chorus

Tag 2

Peace, peace, peace, peace, peace, peace

Verse 3

Friend of the widow, hope to the poor
Proof to the doubting heart, end of all wars
Mercy to sinners, Light of the World
All pow'r and authority, Lord, speak Your Word

Chorus

Tag 3

Peace, peace, peace, peace, peace, peace

HOPE OF THE NATIONS

Brian Doerksen, Arr. Dustin Loehrs © 2002 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Brian Doerksen CCLI #1526594

Verse 1

Jesus, hope of the nations, Jesus, comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of heaven's hope on earth
Jesus, light in the darkness, Jesus truth in each circumstance
You are the source of heaven's light on earth
In Bethlehem, a lowly birth, the dawn of grace and peace on earth

Chorus 1

You are the hope, hope brought to life
Here to reveal what God's really like
Light of the world, shining for everyone to see
You are the Christ, Christmas is You
Our servant King, faithful and true
Jesus our joy, filling our hearts as we receive
Our Prince of Peace

Verse 2

Jesus, hope of the nations, Jesus, comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of heaven's hope on earth
Jesus, light in the darkness, Jesus truth in each circumstance
You are the source of heaven's light on earth
In Bethlehem, a lowly birth, the dawn of grace and peace on earth

Chorus 2

*You are the hope, hope brought to life
Here to reveal what God's really like
Light of the world, shining for everyone to see
You are the Christ, Christmas is You
Our servant King, faithful and true
Jesus our joy, filling our hearts as we receive
Our Prince of Peace, our Prince of Peace
Our Prince of Peace*

ACOLYTE (8:30 Service) – Aylssa Banaszak

LECTOR (8:30 Service) – Barbara McGee

HOSPITALIZED – if you are hospitalized, please have someone call the church as we are not always notified by the hospital.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS – is still benefitting our congregation. To sign-up or re-register, please go to ([www/krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)). If you are having problems registering your card, please call customer service at 1-800-576-4377 or visit the customer service center at your nearest Kroger store. Our organization number is KE634.

SIMPLY GIVING – provides an automated way for your commitment to St. Mark to be carried out. Your offering through Simply Giving can be withdrawn weekly, semi-monthly, monthly or any number of ways. Forms can be found at the Welcome Center, or through the church office, or by visiting www.stmarktoledo.com and clicking on “Give” at the top of the page.

OWL’S LUNCHEON – (Older Wiser Lutherans) Mark your calendars! The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 16th at 11:30am at Luckies on Navarre. Please contact Kathy Agoston to reserve your spot! Phone: (419) 508-5453 or Email: kagoston@sbcglobal.net - Hope to see you there!

NEIGHBORHOOD GIVEAWAY ITEMS – Cathy Klewer is looking for gently used blankets, sheets, and pillows. If possible, please label them with the size. We also have a hats, gloves and mittens bin across from the Welcome Desk in the lobby. When it is filled, Fred Hahn will deliver them to neighborhood schools to be distributed to children in need. Thank you!

ST MARK SPIRE NEWSLETTER – If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter with information on upcoming events, worship updates, member activities, etc., please call or email the church office to have yourself put on the list.

AMAZON SMILE – is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com sign in with your amazon.com credentials and choose St. Mark Lutheran Church Toledo as the organization to donate to.

EMMAUS CONGRATATIONAL DISCERNMENT – Join Pastor Jake Nekoranec on December 13th from 7-8pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. You will hear about what he's been up to, and where God is calling him to lead us next! This Spring, St. Mark issued a joint call with the Northwestern Ohio Synod and Bethlehem Lutheran Church to Pastor Jake to serve as a part-time Pastor, focused on building connections within our East Toledo Parish. RSVP's are not required, but encouraged! Email - jnekoranec001@luthersem.edu

**At St. Mark, we glorify Jesus Christ when we KNOW, LIVE,
and SHARE the Word.**

**We KNOW the Word through study of the Bible, worship, and developing and
nurturing relationships with Jesus and others.**

**We LIVE the Word through prayer, perseverance,
and the power of the Spirit.**

We SHARE the Word by boldly crossing boundaries, welcoming all.