

The First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



A Veni Emmanuel Setting for Holy Communion
(8 and 10:30 am)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

HYMNS ARE PRINTED IN THE BACK OF OUR BULLETIN AS WELL AS HYMNALS (LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book)

****Please stand as you are able.***

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: Another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Let us come in truth before the One who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Kneel/stand. A brief silence is observed.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

***HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**

LBW, “Green,” 25

*THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

3 Cantor All

Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____ Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____

5 Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

1 To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

**2 My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

3 Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

**4 Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

5 Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**6 Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-
| ness, O LORD.

**8 You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

9 You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

**10 All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

THE SECOND READING.....1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel
before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we
may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to
you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another
and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your
hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the
coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

All

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

2

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 21:25-36**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

All

Glo-ry to you, O _____ Lord.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), and a final G4 (half note). A slur covers the notes from B4 to G5. The word 'All' is enclosed in a box above the staff.

[Jesus said:] 25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
The gospel of the Lord.

6 All

Praise to you, O _____ Christ.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter), G5 (quarter), and a final G4 (half note). A slur covers the notes from B4 to G5. The word 'All' is enclosed in a box above the staff.

THE SERMON

***HYMN** Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying

LBW, "Green," 31

***THE NICENE CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “Lord, in your mercy/Receive our prayer”.*

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

1 Cantor

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

2 All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

3 Cantor

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

4

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

5 All

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

6 Cantor

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7

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

8 All

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

Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:
Blessed are you
for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you
in the darkness and the light.
Blessed are you

for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you
in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you
for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ is died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word
dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.

Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel
Word of God incarnate
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
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.

Cantor

Je sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take a way the sins___ of the
 Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree
 Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high.
 De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,

2 | 1.2.3. | All

world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.

3 | 4. | All

world: Grant us___ peace. Grant us___ peace.

***INVITATION**

God feeds us with tender mercy, come!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread

***AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,
 we thank you for the gift of life in bread and wine,
 for coming among us, for leading us into peace.
 You shower us with mercy, and send us into the world,
 proclaiming the coming of the One who has come, is coming

and has promised to come again,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN People Look East**

WOV, “Blue”, 626

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

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OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, Tom Waffenschmidt, George Poliska.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for November 24

Regular Offering	\$3,416.00
Plate Offerings	50.00
Thanksgiving	100.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	243.00
Global Mission	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	150.00
Christmas Flowers	343.00
Organ Fund	400.00
Memorials	200.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Grand Total	\$5,052.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and
 In loving memory of Larry Lundy on his birthday, by the family.
 In honor of my sisters Barb, Karen, and Diane; and in loving memory of my sister Peggy, by Jackie Kinney.

WORSHIP LEADERS **December 1, 2024**

Lector	8 am	
	10:30 am	
Communion Assistants	8 am	
	10:30 am	
Ushers	8 am	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 am	
Organist		Sam Robinson

Altar Guild (DECEMBER)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, December 1	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am
Monday, December 2	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Tuesday, December 3	Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm
Wednesday, December 4	Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm Advent Word and Prayer Service, Chapel, 12:10 pm
Thursday, December 5	Church Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, December 6	Church Office Hours, 9 am -1 pm.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, IS OUR CHRISMON SERVICE. THERE WILL BE ONE WORSHIP TIME AT 9:30 AM. THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BRUNCH WILL FOLLOW. PLEASE JOIN US!

BIRTHDAYS

Rob Ott	12/2
David Elkin	12/4
Larry Lundy	12/6
Brittany Lynch	12/7
Laura Schreckengast	12/7

ADVENT WREATH MAKING Please join us **today** for our annual Advent Wreath making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 AM give or take a few minutes) for the opportunity to create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. Materials will be available after the 10:30 service as well so come on over! We look forward to this time of creativity and Christian fellowship!

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

+ To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion”, updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any

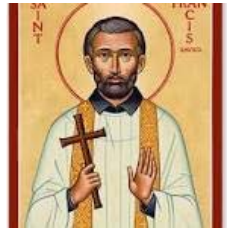
information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

COMMEMORATIONS

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).



John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

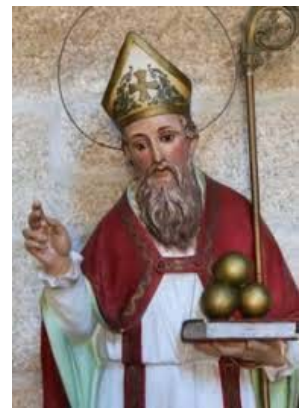
A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.



Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Friday, December 6, 2024

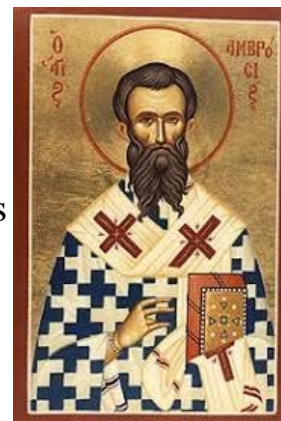
Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving. He is considered the “Historical Santa Claus”.



Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Saturday, December 7, 2024

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead Augustine, Bishop of Hippo to faith.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS As we count down the 25 days until Christmas, the Faith Formation Committee would like to offer congregation members an alternative to the traditional Advent calendars where a treat of some sort is received. Instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.

Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day during Advent place an item in your bag. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! We hope that this Reverse Advent Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (December 24, 2024):

7 pm: “A Children's Candlelight Eucharist”. This service is “family friendly” and will include the Christmas story according to Luke, Christmas Carols appropriate for children, candlelight and Holy Communion.

10 pm: “A Traditional Christmas Eucharist by Candlelight”. This service will include the traditional “Christmas Proclamation”, the Christmas story according to Luke, a Christmas liturgy of familiar Christmas Carols, Choir anthems and Holy Communion.

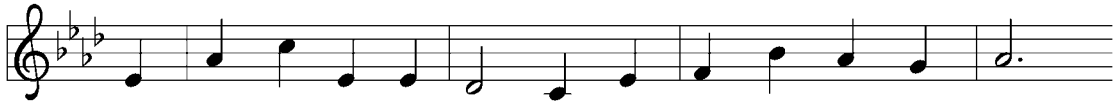
Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY! SHOULD YOU NEED A PASTOR DURING THIS TIME PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (570-323-4619) OR PASTOR VASEY (272-788-0161).

Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!

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Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - ti - ence their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
 an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we
 what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.
 view where you have bid us dine with you.
 sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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