

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The First Sunday in Advent

27 November A \times D 2022

Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the First Sunday of Advent. This day marks the opening of a new Church Year, and begins for the Church a season of somber repentance, in which we lament our sins and look forward eagerly to the coming of Christ. On this First Sunday of Advent, we focus especially on Jesus' role as our humble and righteous King, who comes to us to save us from sin and death and to grant us eternal life through faith.

If you are a VISITOR here, we'd like to offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus' body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled "On the Sacrament of Holy Communion," printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,
I humbly pray that You would open my heart
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that when we receive Holy Communion together, we are publicly declaring both our unity in Christ and our agreement in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may remain in your pew.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 25:4–5, 21–22; antiphon: vv. 1–3a

- P** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.
- P** Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
- C** **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;**
for you I wait all the day long.
- P** May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- C** **Redeem Israel, O God,**
out of all his troubles.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



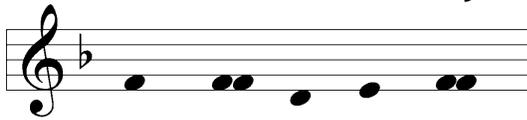
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

During Advent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:5–8

⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

⁷“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ ⁸but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 25:3–4

P None who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Epistle

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Alleluia



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

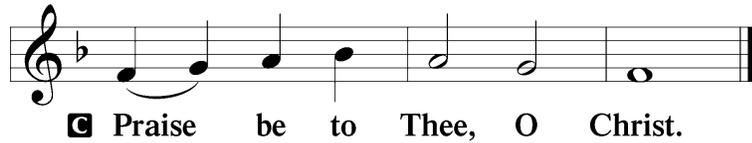
⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to

the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian 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.

Hymn of the Day: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and
 crown.

7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make
 whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

△8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.

Stand Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Stand Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For abiding hope in the Lord's return, that sustained by His Spirit, we may wait patiently for the advent of Christ, who comes to save, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Church, that God would preserve her against all enemies and lead His people to walk in His ways and follow His paths, so that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Christian homes, that God would defend husbands, wives and children from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness, clothing them with the armor of light, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation, its leaders and our armed forces, that God would take them under His care and let His blessing rest upon them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick, the suffering and those in need, [*especially _____,*] that our Father in heaven would ease their pain, increase their faith, and grant them healing in accordance with His own wisdom and will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune, that the Lord, who humbly rode into Jerusalem for our salvation, would give to us hearts that confess our sin and rejoice in His presence in the Holy Communion for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Holy God, You declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



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

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

Matthew 6:9–13

**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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Visitors – Please see the note on the inside, front of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so
cheering,
And guide us safely home.

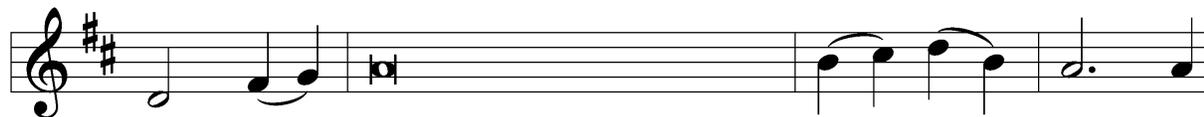
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



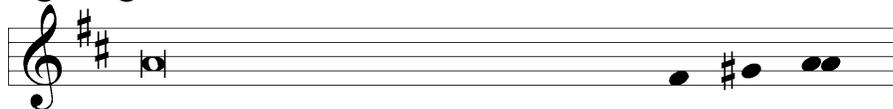
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



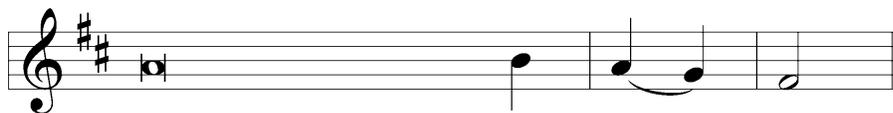
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



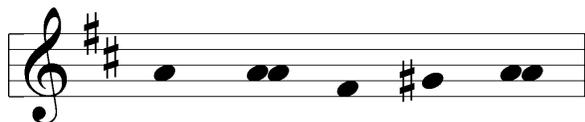
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



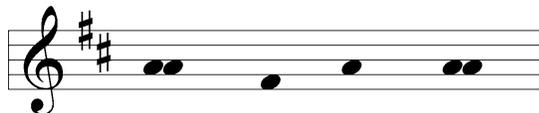
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



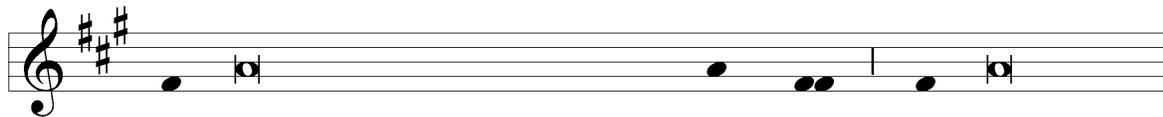
A Bless we the Lord.



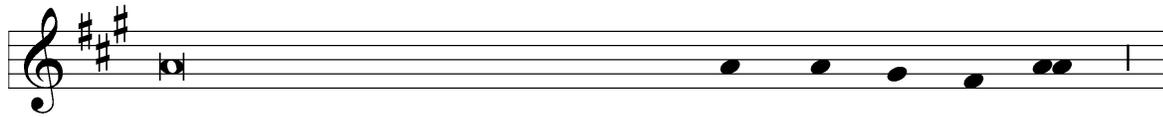
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

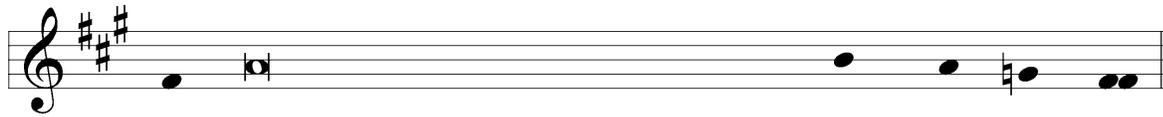
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Benediction marks the end of the Divine Service. Following the Announcements, the congregation will sing the Closing Hymn below and depart in joy.

Closing Hymn: 331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 11/27 The First Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Mon. 11/28 Pastor's Day Off

Tue. 11/29 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wed. 11/30 Wednesday Nights in Christ Program:

- **Dinner** 5:15 p.m.
 - **Youth Bible Lesson** 5:45 p.m.
 - **Craft/Life Skill/Game** 6:15 p.m.
- Midweek Advent Service** 7:00 p.m.

Thu. 12/1 Adopt-A-Family gifts turned in between 9:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Quilting Bee 10:00 a.m.
Pastor out of the office in the afternoon

Sat. 12/3 Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Sun. 12/4 The Second Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Voters' Meeting** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE CLASS – All adults, and youth in middle or high school, are welcome to join pastor after church each Sunday for Adult Bible Class starting at 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor will continue to teach on the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin. We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MOVED TO NOVEMBER 29 – This is just a reminder for all of our Church Council members: November’s monthly meeting has been moved to this **Tuesday, November 29** at 7:00 p.m. The Agenda will include approving the 2023 budget for submission to the congregation at the December 4 Voters’ Meeting. Please try to make this meeting.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 30 - Beginning this **Wednesday, November 30**, St. Mark’s will begin holding our annual Advent Midweek Services. Here, we will gather on Wednesday evenings during this special season of repentance to receive the Lord’s Word and to wait for His salvation. These services will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will follow a series titled “In the Beginning Was the Word: An Advent Series on Genesis.” Just like last year, circuit pastors will be rotating between churches for these services, so we hope you will welcome the visiting pastors! Please make these services a part of your yearly Advent preparations!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN CHRIST WILL RESUME ON THE 30TH – Our midweek program for kids called *Wednesday Nights in Christ* will be meeting again this **Wednesday, November 30**. All kids, ages 4 through those in 5th Grade, are invited to join us each Wednesday evening for this fun and educational class. The program will always begin with a simple dinner at 5:15 p.m., followed by a Bible lesson at 5:45 p.m., and conclude with a craft, game, or “Life Skills” speaker at 6:15 p.m. The program will end each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. If you haven’t registered your child or grandkids yet, please do! Also, any child who brings a friend will get to choose a cool prize! Just visit our website at www.stmarkwb.org, hover over the “Contact/Registration tab,” and you’ll see the Wed. Nights in Christ Registration form that you can then complete.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS – The Board of Human Care is once again hosting the Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program for the Open Door Outreach center in Waterford. We are seeking volunteers to sign up to help check-in any dropped-off gifts on **December 1** from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and also organize them for distribution. We are also seeking volunteers to help sign in families and distribute their gifts on **December 6 & 7** from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We ask that volunteers arrive by 8:30 a.m. on these days. The volunteer sign-up sheet is located on an easel in the entryway. Any and all help would be appreciated. Please include the time frames you are available along with your name. St. Mark’s is also sponsoring a family for Christmas. The tags showing items needed are also located on the same easel, and we ask that you pick a tag and sign the sheet so we know who has whom. Then attach the gift tag to the gift and drop it off at St. Mark’s by December 1. You may wrap the gift, if you choose. On a side note, we have wrapping paper and bows available for a donation to the Joe Boway fundraiser. You can pick out whatever you need and donate as you wish. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Karen Kaufman or Leslie Oehring.

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS’ MEETING IS COMING UP – Next **Sunday, December 4**, right after the Divine Service, all voters ages 18+ are encouraged to meet in the Fellowship Hall for St. Mark’s Semi-annual Voters’ Meeting. The Agenda will include financial and attendance updates, board reports (as needed), the election of some new board members and officers, and approval of a budget for 2023. If you are a voting member of St. Mark’s, your attendance at this meeting is essential, so please make plans now to attend.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2022! Our Board of Elders is leading a reading program where we will be going through the entire Bible in the year 2022. We hope you will participate! Yearly reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary. You can start at any time!

The readings for Week 48 (November 27 – December 3) are:

Sun	27-Nov	Romans 11-14
Mon	28-Nov	Romans 15-16
Tue	29-Nov	1 Corinthians 1-4
Wed	30-Nov	1 Corinthians 5-9
Thu	1-Dec	1 Corinthians 10-13
Fri	2-Dec	1 Corinthians 14-16
Sat	3-Dec	2 Corinthians 1-4

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care will now be accepting them **EVERY week!** Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can set them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian school to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing Liberian School on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark's), or visiting the St. Mark's website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - During November and part of December, we will be accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will adorn our altar area for Christmas. Each poinsettia plant costs \$10 and you may take your plant home with you (if you wish) in early January. You may order one or more plant in honor, or in memory, of a loved one, or just to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Either complete a pink flower order form found in our Sunday bulletins, place it and your payment (cash or a check made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) inside a pink flower envelope (located in the pew racks), write "Poinsettia" on the envelope, and then place it into an offering plate, OR mail the correct amount to St. Mark's church office and include any honorarium or memorial information. The names of those being honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

KEITH ELEMENTARY "INVISIBLE DAD" LUNCH PROGRAM DONATIONS – Keith Elementary's Invisible Dad Lunch Program was started a few years ago by a dad of one of the students so that if a child forgot to bring a lunch, or if their personal lunch fund balance was short, the school could offer them a full lunch at no cost instead of the free, state-sponsored "tiny lunch" that doesn't contain enough food and isn't the healthiest. St. Mark's has placed our Invisible Dad Lunch donation jar back on the table in the back of the sanctuary so that we can receive any extra change you'd like to donate for next year's lunch program at Keith. We hope you will participate by donating any loose change you have!

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave 1/4" of the envelope paper around the stamp.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Carolynn Taylor

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpet

Chris Gerard

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman