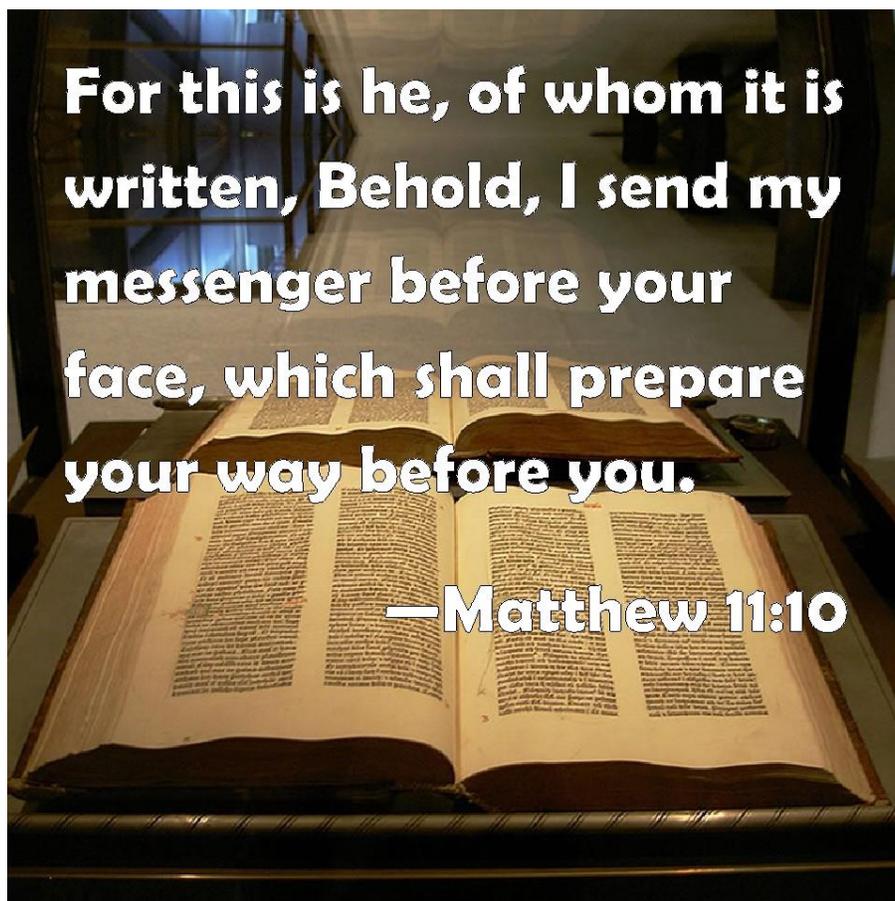


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: info@stmarkwb.org
Website: www.stmarkwb.org



The Third Sunday in Advent

12 December A D 2021
Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Third Sunday of Advent. On this day, we rejoice that God sends out His messengers to prepare the way of Christ, that our hearts might be ready to receive Him in faith when He comes. Long ago, God did this when He sent John the Baptist to the people of Israel. And still today, God sends out His ministers to us, proclaiming through them the same joyous message: “Prepare your hearts for Christ, who comes to save!”

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 simply 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: 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.
- C** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.
- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.
- P** Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
- C** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to
folly.

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** Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.
- C** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

- ¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.
⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 80:1–2

P You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Stir up your might and come to save us!

C Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

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 11:2–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



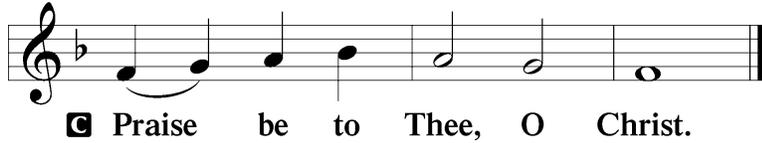
C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Please be sure to sign an attendance register this morning (the black books sitting at the ends of each 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 That the Lord would restore the fortunes of His Church by the coming of Christ; that He would fill us with rejoicing at all times and give reasonableness to our words and deeds; and that all may see our Christian confidence in the advent of His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that God would give us faithful pastors, who serve well as stewards of His mysteries; and that the Lord would bless every Christian congregation, especially Ziah Town Lutheran Church and School in Liberia, that He would tend His flock by His Word and Spirit, that Christ's lambs may be gathered into God's arms and gently led to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation; that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For us and our fellow citizens, that God would keep us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men who come and go like grass before His breath; for our nation, that God would give us rulers who will rule after His good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life; and for godly quietness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and sorrowing, that the Shepherd of Israel would give ear to their need [*especially _____*]; and for healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry out to God, that they may find comfort in His enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 responsively)

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 cover of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

C 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.

A 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.



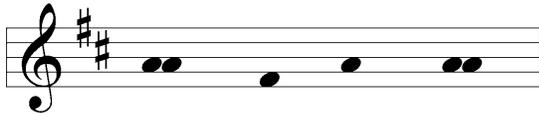
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



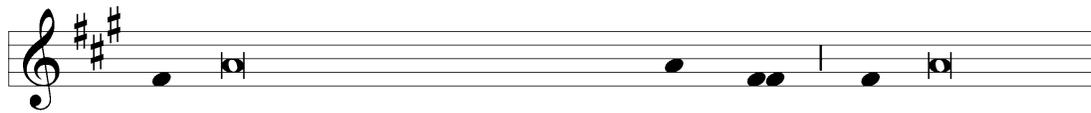
A Bless we the Lord.



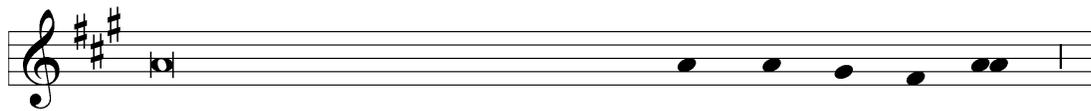
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

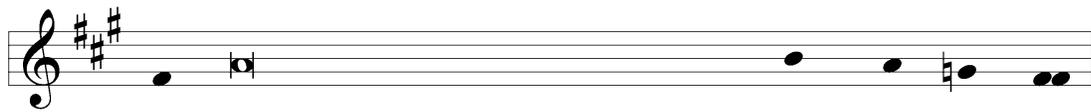
Numbers 6:24–26



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.

Closing Hymn: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 12/12 The Third Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School for Kids** 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room

Mon. 12/13 Pastor out of the Office

Tue. 12/14 Pastor's Winkel at St. Mark's 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Wed. 12/15 Midweek abbreviated Communion Service 4:30 p.m. (masks required)
Midweek Advent Service of Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Thu. 12/16 Pastor out of the office in the afternoon

Fri. 12/17 Deadline to submit January newsletter articles

Sun. 12/19 The Fourth Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School for Kids** 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for our Sunday morning Divine Services:

1. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available on the table in the entryway if you decide to use them.
2. Those who wish may request a squirt of hand sanitizer from the usher before Holy Communion, and sanitizer will also be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following Communion.
3. The "Sharing of the Peace" has been temporarily suspended.

Pastor's sermons will still be posted on St. Mark's Facebook page a day or two after each service. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – All adults are welcome to join Pastor for Adult Bible Study in the basement fellowship hall **this morning** directly following the Divine Service (**around 10:45 a.m.**) as he continues to teach on the book of Genesis. Coffee and snacks will be available too.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY – Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join Mrs. Kaufman in the upstairs youth room (behind the choir loft) right after the Divine Service for Sunday School. Sunday School **from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** Kids will hear a different Bible story each week; what a great way for them to learn about Jesus! And kids are certainly welcome to bring friends and/or family with them also!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE – All are encouraged to attend St. Mark's final Advent Midweek Service this **Wednesday, December 15** at 7:00 p.m. The service will follow the beautiful order of Evening Prayer. The theme for this year is "The Hymns of Advent" in which we will look at some of your favorite Advent hymns to explore how they uniquely proclaim the coming of the Christ. This year, we will be doing something a little different with these services: We will be doing them Round-Robin style, with different Circuit Pastors leading the services. This Wednesday, Pastor Johnson from Christ, Milford will be leading our service. We hope you will set aside extra time to dedicate to the Word and join us!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES - We rejoice that even in the midst of the current surge in COVID cases, many have continued to come to church and receive God's Word and Sacrament among His people. However, we also understand that among our brothers and sisters in Christ, there are special cases which prohibit attendance at the gathered assembly. Therefore, so that we might all be able to receive the strength of Christ in the Sacrament, we are now offering special **midweek communion services**. These services will take place weekly on **Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.** and are meant for those who are unable to attend, or are uncomfortable attending, the Divine Service on Sunday morning. The service will be brief (~15 minutes) and those who attend will be asked to wear masks. This will be a temporary part of our worship schedule. (Please note that Pastor will not hold this midweek communion service on Wednesday, December 29.)

ADVENT PLEDGE DRIVE - When we give offerings to Church, we do it because we love the Word of God and want to see it proclaimed in our community for years to come. Indeed, such giving is our Christian duty. Therefore, in the season of Advent, St. Mark's will be holding a Pledge Drive. Here, we are asking all congregation members to consider whether the Lord has positioned them to increase their giving going forward, and to pledge to give accordingly as long as circumstances allow. Pledge forms, with accompanying instructions, can be found at church near the elevator door across from the sanctuary exit. All received pledges will be presented to the Lord with thanksgiving on **Sunday, December 19**. Please consider participating, as we await our coming Savior, who has freed us to be generous by His blood!

READ THRU THE BIBLE IN 2022! The Apostle Paul, referring to the Scriptures, once said, "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). Therefore, so that we might learn the Scriptures better and might abound in hope in Christ, in 2022 St. Mark's Board of Elders will be leading a Bible reading program, in which we will be going through the entire Bible in a year. Reading plans will be available at church beginning on **December 19**, and weekly readings will be printed in the bulletin throughout 2022. Please consider participating!

ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING ON DECEMBER 19? We had planned on possibly caroling at a nearby senior home on Sunday, December 19. However, with the busyness of schedules, and COVID-19 restrictions, caroling *indoors* isn't going to happen this year. However, if anyone would like to carol in the neighborhood behind church on that Sunday (time TBD, but later in the day), Pastor says he'd love to join you for some fun Christmas carol singing! If interested, please let pastor know ASAP! (Whether or not we go caroling will be contingent upon whether or not we get enough volunteers.)

FUNDRAISERS TO SUPPORT LIBERIAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL – St. Mark's Board of Human Care will be hosting several different fundraisers over the next year in an effort to raise the \$3,000 that is needed to install a new well at the Liberian Lutheran School that we support. Please watch for additional fundraising details in our Sunday bulletins. **We are only \$700 short of having the entire \$3,000 now!** You may also choose to give a cash donation by placing any amount (checks made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) in a green pew envelope (write "Joe Boway" on the front of the envelope), or you can visit St. Mark's website and click on our online giving button where you can donate to the fund called "Joe Boway/Liberian School." Check the fundraising poster at the top of the basement stairs for dollar updates.

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC SEEKING FOOD DONATIONS - The Food Pantry at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac is getting low on the items listed below.

1. Rice
2. Tuna
3. Green beans
4. Baked beans (we are set for pinto, black and kidney)
5. Soups
6. Spaghetti noodles
7. Other plain pastas
8. Canned fruits
9. Family sized bars of soap (Dollar stores have best deal on personals)
10. Family sized toothpaste
11. Deodorants
12. Razors
13. Hand sanitizers
14. Diapers (newborn and size 5 and 6) we are set for other sizes
15. Diaper wipes
16. Family sized shampoo
17. Laundry detergent
18. Canned chicken and meat
19. 1# packs of chicken or hamburger
20. Dried or packages milk

These items above can be purchased either at a local store or on Amazon. Donations should be dropped off at St. Paul, Pontiac. Their address is: 1133 Joslyn Ave., Pontiac, MI.

THE OPEN DOOR HAS AN IMMEDIATE NEED for kids' pajamas (boys, girls...it doesn't matter) in sizes Newborn to 3T. They also need kids' socks in sizes baby, toddler and grade school. If you can help, please place your donations in the Open Door bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Any questions can be directed to Leslie Oehring.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER SOME CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS? We are now accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will be used to help decorate St. Mark's altar area for Christmas, after which time you can take yours home with you, if you wish. Each poinsettia plant costs \$10 and will contain 5-6 blooms. For more information, please see the pink insert found in today's service folder. All orders must be turned in to the church office **no later than December 17.**

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.**

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.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR *INVISIBLE DAD* FUNDRAISER where you can donate your extra coins or cash into the jar on the rear table in the sanctuary in order to help provide lunches to underprivileged students at Keith Elementary School. We will continue to receive donations year round, and will deliver a check for the accumulated donations to Keith sometime during March of 2022. Thanks in advance for helping students in need in our community!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Carolynn Taylor

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Trent Johnson

Video Technician

Charlie Powell