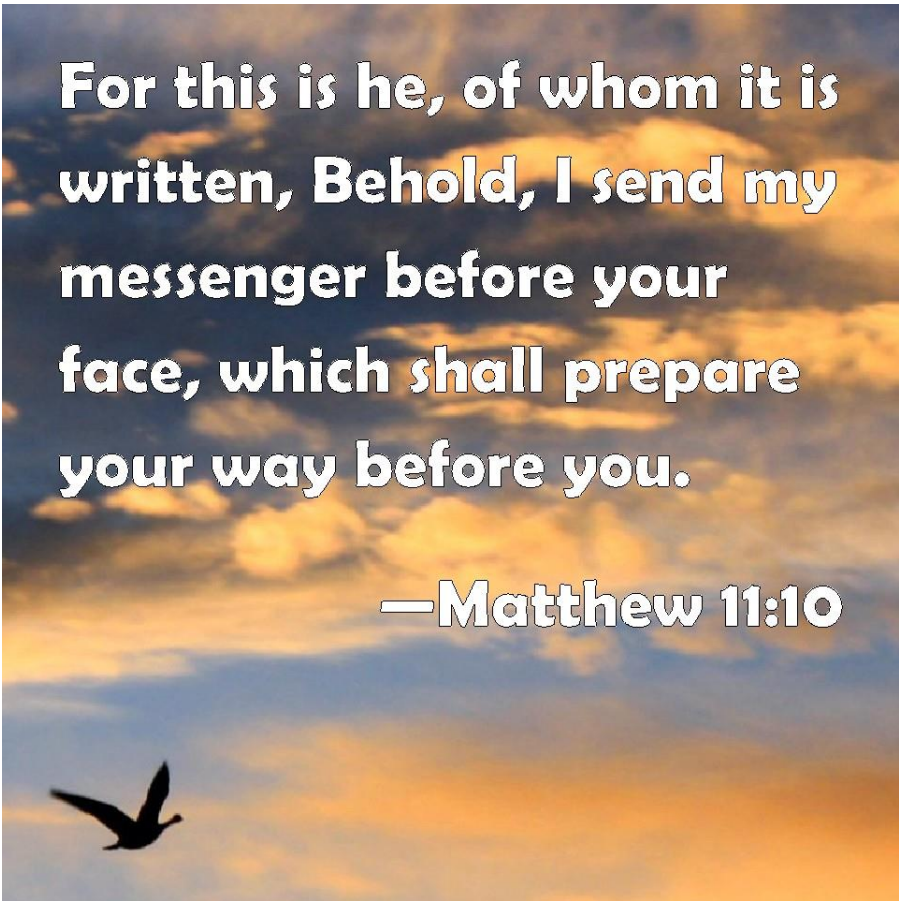


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
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Website: www.stmarkwb.org



**For this is he, of whom it is
written, Behold, I send my
messenger before your
face, which shall prepare
your way before you.**

—Matthew 11:10

The Third Sunday in Advent

17 December A \mathfrak{D} D 2023

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 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: 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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: 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.

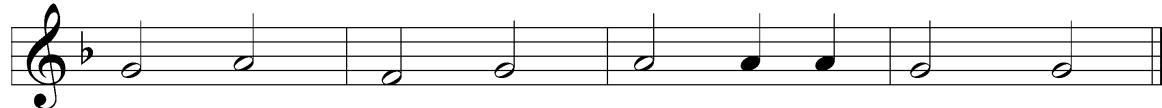
[C] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



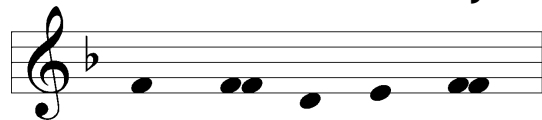
[C] Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

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.

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.

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 11:2–11

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.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.

Sit

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: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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 That the Lord who is favorable to His people would restore the fortunes of His Church by the coming of Christ Jesus; that He would fill us with rejoicing at all times and give reasonableness to our words and deeds; and that all may recognize our Christian confidence in His Son's advent, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, the Bride of Christ, that proclaiming the Good News of forgiveness in her Savior may always be her joy and delight, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our pastors, that they would regard themselves as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God; and that they may be found trustworthy as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to

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.



C 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

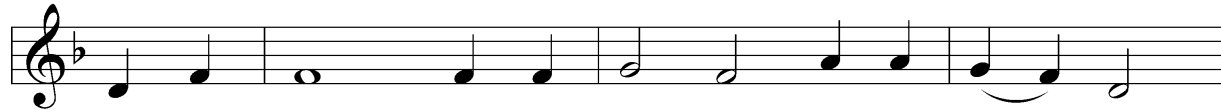
Distribution

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

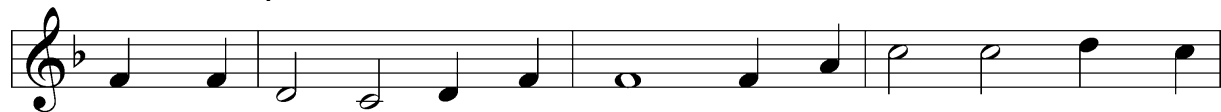
Distribution Hymn: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Stanzas 1-4 only



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

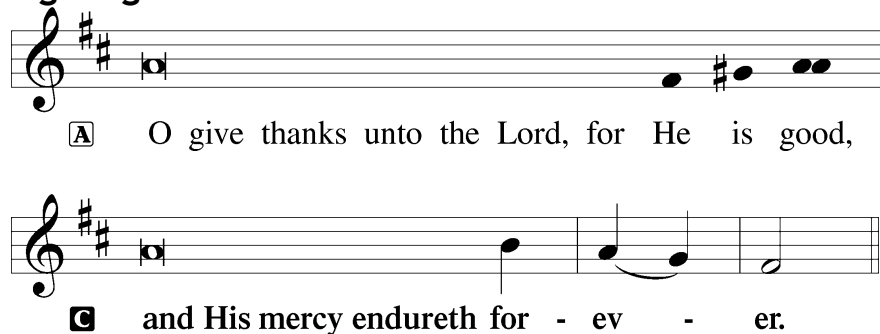
Luke 2:29–32



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 - tles 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

Psalms 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

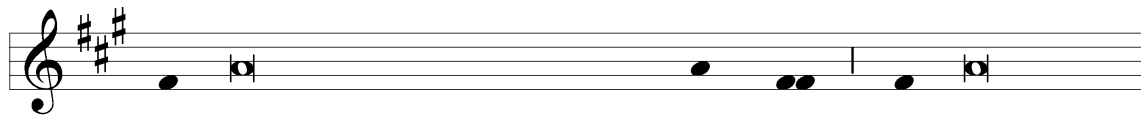
P Let us pray.

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.

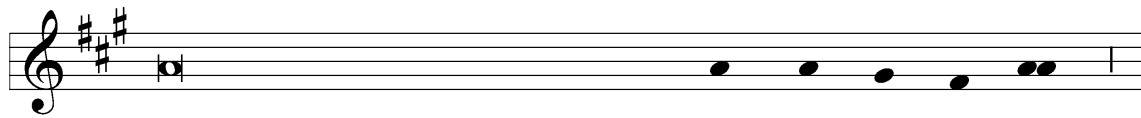


Benediction

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: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 12/17 The Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor Terry Nelson presiding

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

Wed. 12/20 Midweek Advent Worship Service 7:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran, Milford

Thu. 12/21 First Day of Winter

Fri. 12/22 Distribute January's newsletter

Sun. 12/24 The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding

NO church service in the morning for Advent 4

- **Service of Carols and Candlelighting** 5:00 p.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – All are welcome to join Pastor Nelson in the Fellowship Hall right after church this morning for Adult Bible Class. Pastor will teach on today's Bible readings and snacks will be available. Start your week off right with some in-depth studying of the Scriptures!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE – Due to not having a permanent pastor at this time, St. Mark's won't be hosting our usual midweek Advent worship services. However, some of our area sister congregations will be taking turns hosting them and all parishioners in our circuit are invited to attend! The services will take place at 7:00 p.m. with a theme of: ***The Way, The Truth, The Life***, and the remaining schedule is as follows:

- December 20 at Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Road, Milford: *Life in the Flesh, Life in the Spirit*

Please make plans now to attend, if you are able!

QUILTING BEE ON HAITUS – St. Mark's Quilting Bee group is on hiatus during the months of December and January. They will resume meeting, and sewing, on February 1.

GREETING CARD DONATIONS NEEDED - St. Mark's Board of Human Care has a Greeting Card Ministry that we would like to expand! This past year we have taken 5 batches of cards to MediLodge in Milford, where their staff give them to their residents who they feel can benefit from a friendly greeting. If you have any cards, either blank inside, Christmas, Easter, Valentine, 4th of July, etc... and especially general "thinking of you" type, and would like to donate them, there is now a box on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can put them. Also, any stickers or cut outs that can be used to decorate blank cards would be very useful. These cards can be secular or religious. And if you would be interested in helping make cards, or have suggestions of places or individuals who would like an occasional card from St. Mark's, please let us know!! If you would like more information, please call Leslie Oehring.

WE ARE SEEKING A CHURCH SECRETARY - Our long-time Office Manager, Debbie LoCascio, will be retiring in mid-March of 2024. We are currently starting a search to hire a part-time secretary to replace her. Duties will include sorting mail, answering the phones, creating publications (weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters) and other miscellaneous duties. Training for the position will take place part-time (days/times are flexible) between now and mid-March. Debbie is currently working to pare down her Office Manager duties so that the future position can be part-time. If you're interested, or know anyone who might be interested, please talk to either Trent Johnson or John Reardon.

ST. MARK'S SUNDAY ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES – We hope you and your family, friends, neighbors, etc. will make plans now to attend St. Mark's Sunday Advent & Christmas worship services! The remaining schedule for these is as follows:

- Sunday, December 17 The Third Sunday in Advent – Divine service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 24 (No Advent 4 service that morning) – The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight & Carols Service at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord – Divine Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 31 The First Sunday After Christmas – Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP – If you normally use a box of contribution envelopes throughout the year, the 2024 boxes are sitting on a table at the back of the sanctuary and your box is ready to go home with you. If you would rather use our free automated offering withdrawal program called "Kindrid," you can visit www.kindridgiving.com to sign up for it. Be sure to use your envelopes, or include your envelope number, for all donations you give in 2024 so that your offering statement will be correct.

BOARD OF PROPERTIES' REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SHEET – St. Mark's Board of Properties now has a sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office where you can list projects that you see around church that need to be completed. See a light bulb that's out? List it on the sheet. See something that's broken? List it on the sheet. Please help the board discover repairs that need to be fixed by listing them on this sheet. Thank you in advance for your help!

COMBINED EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE ON JANUARY 6 – For the upcoming Epiphany Service on **January 6, 2024**, our circuit is planning to have a combined worship service to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Milford at 7:00 p.m., and all church members of St. Mark's are invited to attend! The circuit has already secured David Davis, President of our Michigan District LCMS headquarters, to preach at the service. Please place this event on your calendars now as it'll be something you won't want to miss!

TAKING DOWN OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – We're seeking volunteers to help take down St. Mark's church decorations on **Saturday, January 6** starting at 10:00 a.m. Can we count on you to help? Many hands make for light work!

INSTALLATION OF 2024 CHURCH SERVANTS – On **Sunday, January 21** during the Divine Service, we will be installing our 2024 church servants into their positions. All those who will be serving at St. Mark's in any and all positions including officers, board members, musicians, non-elected positions, etc. are welcome to participate! Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who keep St. Mark's running!

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!

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.**

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put 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 Lutheran 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 "Joe Boway" 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.

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 leave ¼” of the paper around the stamp.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Terry Nelson
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman & Karen Kaufman

Worship Assistant

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Nancy Hewson & TBD

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

Tom Kaufman