

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Second Sunday in Advent

5 December A✠D 2021

Divine Service, Setting III

✝ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✝

Today we observe the Second Sunday of Advent. On this day, we consider the coming of Christ on the Last Day and what that will mean for His people. The Scriptures declare that just as Jesus once came in humility, being born of a virgin, so also He will come again in glory. Today, the Church waits eagerly for that day, for it will be the Day of our ultimate redemption, when we, risen with Christ from the dead, inherit His kingdom forevermore.

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: 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra-dian-cy di-vine, Scat-ter all my un-be-lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap-pear.
Till they in-ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy-self dis-play, Shin-ing to the per-fect day.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29

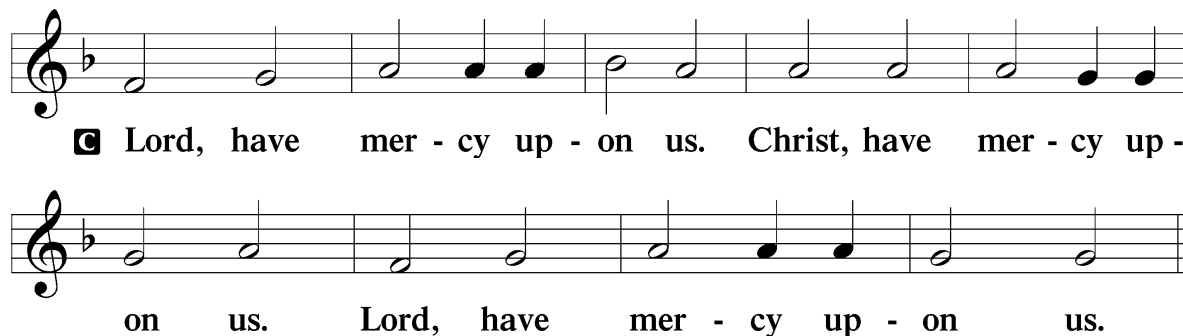
- P** Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,
and you shall have gladness of heart.**
- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- C** **Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see.
- C** **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

**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** Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,
and you shall have gladness of heart.**

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. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1–6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 50:2–3a, 5

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep silence;

C “Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

Luke 21:25–36

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G 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

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

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



♩ 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 the Word of God, sent forth into the world, that by it many who do not know Christ may be brought to faith, be comforted and strengthened with us, and sing the Lord's eternal praises; and also for God's blessing upon the work of all Christian congregations and all missionaries, especially Joe Boway, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the fearful and the distressed among us, that God would powerfully guard our hearts through the peace of Christ, even as the world around us faints with fear and foreboding at the great signs of Christ's return, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the tempted among us, that the Lord would preserve us from dissipation, drunkenness and every temptation that would harm our souls; and that He might strengthen our faith as we joyfully await His return, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the leaders of the earth and those who govern, that God would work through them to thwart every evil that would hinder His reign and to establish peace in every place; and for all those impacted by the tragedy at Oxford High School, that the Lord would comfort the grieving, heal the injured, fill the troubled with His peace, uphold those who protect and serve, and bring to repentance all who would commit such acts of evil, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all Christian citizens, that in the midst of strife and conflict, and wars and rumors of wars, we would remember that God has given all authority in heaven and earth to Christ, who reigns on high, 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 commune this day; for repentance and firm trust in Christ; for right discernment of His holy body in the Supper; and that God would fill us with joy and peace in believing so that, forgiven and abounding in hope, we may be able to stand with a clean conscience before His judgment throne, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all troubled consciences, that the God of comfort would show them the love of Christ, lift their heads to see that their redemption is drawing near, and bless them through the preaching of the Gospel, 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.

[illegible]

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.**

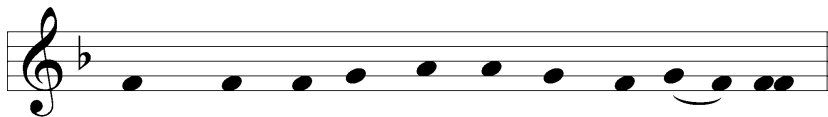
The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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



¶ 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 of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;
The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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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

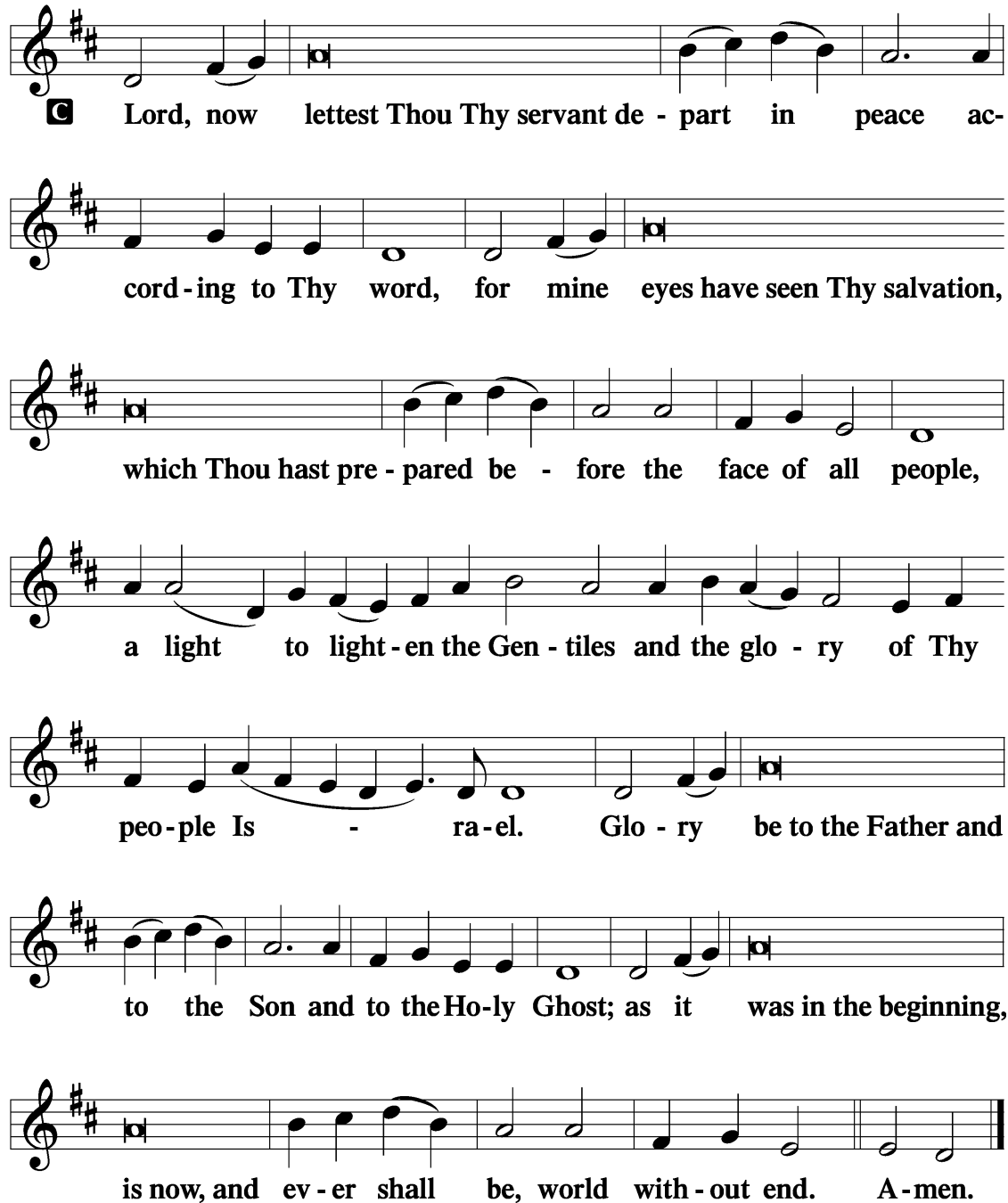


To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 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.

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

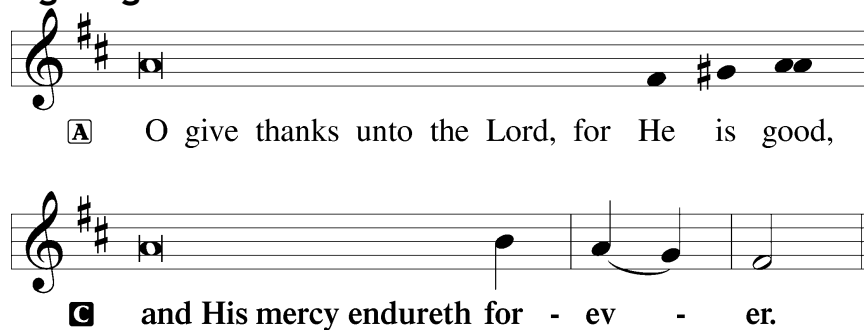
Luke 2:29–32



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

Psalms 107:1

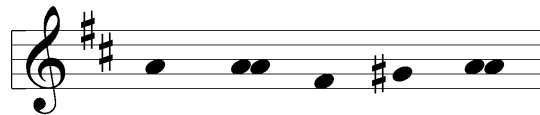


A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



C A - men.



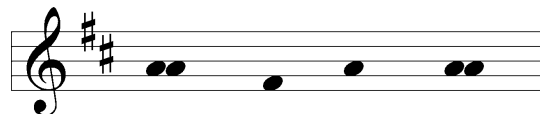
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



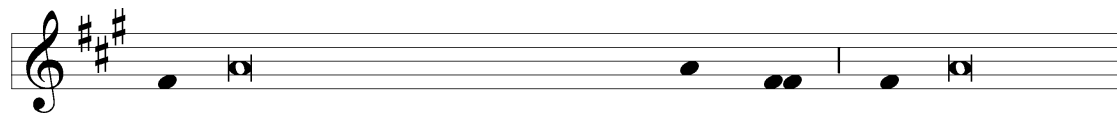
A Bless we the Lord.



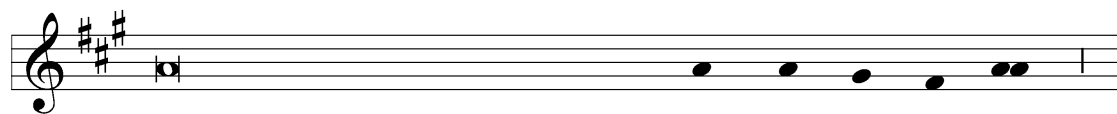
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

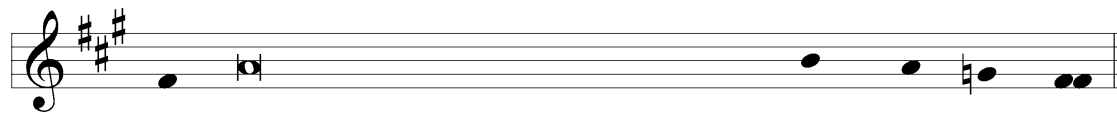
Numbers 6:24–26



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.

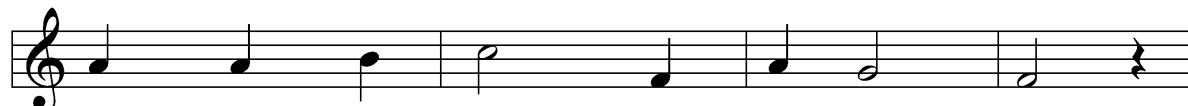


C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 To Ja - cob's line to rain down the King.
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
 O Sun, arise; without Your light
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
 O come, lead us with mighty hand
 From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring
 And sing to You, our Savior King;
 There shall we laud You and adore
 Forever and forevermore.

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Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 12/5 The Second Sunday in Advent**
CAN/BOTTLE COLLECTION for Joe Boway/Liberian well
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Voters' Meeting** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 12/6 Pastor out of the Office**
- Tue. 12/7 Retrieve gifts from the Open Door (on call)**
Board of Elders' Meeting 7 p.m.
- Wed. 12/8 Midweek Worship Service** 7 p.m.
- Thu. 12/9 Distribute Adopt-A-Family Gifts** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Pastor out of the Office in the afternoon
- 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

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" will be 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!

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING TODAY – This morning, following the Divine Service, we will be holding our Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting in the basement Fellowship Hall. The agenda will include board reports, board/officer elections, and discussion/approval of a budget for 2022. All church members ages 18+ are encouraged to attend!

NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – Due to this morning's Voters' Meeting at 11 a.m., there will be no Adult Bible Study today. However, our Sunday Adult Bible Study will resume next **Sunday after the Divine Service (around 10:45 a.m.)** in the basement fellowship hall, and all are welcome to attend!

NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY – Due to this morning's Voters' Meeting at 11 a.m., there will be no Sunday School after worship. However, Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join us **NEXT** week for Sunday School that will take place right after the Divine Service in the upstairs youth room. Sunday School takes place at the same time as the Adult Bible Study class **from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** each Sunday. 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 SERVICES – You are encouraged to attend St. Mark's Advent Midweek Services on **Wednesday evenings (December 8 and 15) at 7:00 p.m.** Each 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. Last Wednesday, Pastor Vergin led our service at St. Mark's. This Wednesday, Pastor Moyer from Faith, Highland will be leading our service. And on the third 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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM – St. Mark's Board of Human Care and the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford are seeking volunteers to help with this year's Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program. Thanks so much to our church members that have already signed up to buy a gift (or two) for our needy families! All of the Christmas tags have been taken off the easel! There are still a few more ways you can help: 1) volunteer to pick up Christmas gifts from the Open Door and take them to St. Mark's on **Tuesday, December 7** (on an on-call basis); and/or 2) help distribute the purchased gifts to the needy families on **Thursday, December 9** at St. Mark's between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The sign-up sheet for items 2 & 3 above is located on the clip board on the table. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Karen Kaufman.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE – Advent daily devotional booklets (blue-colored) sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. They are free, and each day starting November 28 offers a new devotion and Bible verse. Take one home today and let Advent serve as a time of prayer and study of God's Word!

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. **Today's fundraiser is a Can/Bottle Drive.** Please give your cans & bottles to Karen Kaufman before or after church this morning. 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.

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.

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR THE *LUTHERAN WITNESS* MAGAZINE – This is the time of year when the members of our congregation have the opportunity to order, or renew, subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* (LW) magazine, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Published 11 times per year, LW provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue of LW includes a free copy of the *Michigan In Touch* supplement published by our Michigan District LCMS. Next year's LW subscriptions will run from March 2022 through February 2023 and a subscription costs \$11.60 per year if ordered through St. Mark's. If you'd like to start a new subscription, or renew this year's, please place your check for \$11.60 (made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) into a green envelope (found in the pew racks), write "Lutheran Witness" on the front of the envelope, and place it into an offering plate **no later than December 8, 2021**.

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 neighborhood!

MICHIGAN DISTRICT NEEDS ADMIN. ASSISTANT – The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is seeking applicants for a full-time Administrative Assistant – Congregation Ministries. Responsibilities include: supporting the Assistants to the President – Congregation Ministries, providing receptionist and hospitality support for the office, and processing of student aid applications. A job description is available at michigandistrict.org/jobs. The ideal candidate would be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and have database experience. The candidate should also be detailed, able to organize, a self-starter, and have excellent communication skills. Please mail cover letter, including salary expectation and resume to: Chad Woltemath, Michigan District, LCMS, 3773 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 or chad.woltemath@michigandistrict.org.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Sue Ingram & Judy Schassberger

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman