

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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On The Eighth Day, When  
It Was Time To Circumcise  
Him, He Was Named Jesus,  
The Name The Angel Had  
Given Him Before He Had  
Been Conceived.

Luke 2:21

## The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

1 January A.D. 2023

*Divine Service, Setting III*

## † Welcome in the name of Jesus! †

Today we observe the Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. Here, we rejoice as we see the newborn Christ, even at 8 days old, fulfilling the Law perfectly in our place. In this way, He receives the name Jesus rightly, for that name means “The Lord saves” and He will do just that: through His perfect keeping of the Law and His own sacrificial death, He will save us from our sins, that we might share in His resurrection through faith.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

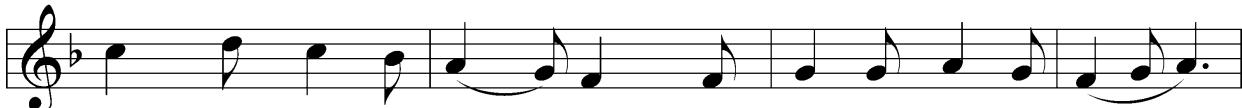
*Stand*

## Hymn of Invocation: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

*During the Procession, the ancient and laudable custom is to **bow your head** in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.*



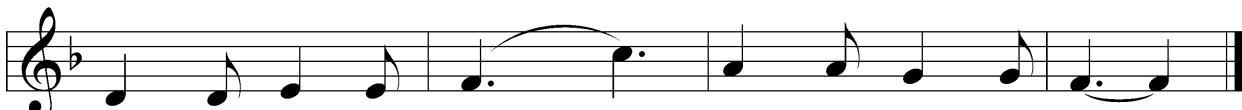
1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man-ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty  
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

## Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 40:6–8; antiphon: 40:16*

- P** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”
- P** Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
- C** Then I said, “Behold, I have come;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
- P** I desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart.”

**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** May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

## 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.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

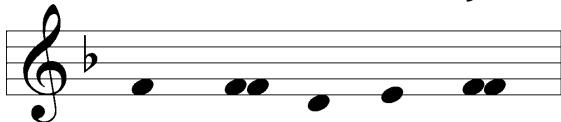
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

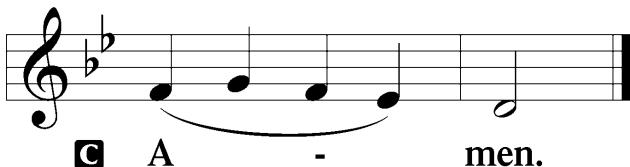


**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through 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

*Numbers 6:22-27*

<sup>22</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>23</sup>“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

<sup>24</sup>The LORD bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup>the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup>“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Hebrews 8:10; 10:17*

**P** This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days, declares the Lord:

**C** I will put my laws into their minds,  
and write them on their hearts.

**P** I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.

## Epistle

*Galatians 3:23–29*

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Gospel Procession

*Please stand and turn in the direction of the Processional Cross and the reader as they move into the center of the nave. The Gospel is read in the midst of the congregation to symbolize the risen Christ's abiding presence among us and to mark the high point of the Service of the Word.*

## Alleluia



A musical score for the Alleluia. It consists of three measures of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple, featuring quarter notes and eighth notes. Below the music, the lyrics "Al-le - lu - ia." are repeated three times, with a short pause after each "- ia." The first "- ia." is on a higher note than the others.

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

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:21*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



A musical score for the hymn "Glory be to Thee, O Lord". It consists of three measures of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple, featuring quarter notes and eighth notes. Below the music, the lyrics "Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord." are written, with a short pause after "Thee". The first "O" is on a higher note than the others.

**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



A musical score for the hymn "Praise be to Thee, O Christ". It consists of three measures of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple, featuring quarter notes and eighth notes. Below the music, the lyrics "Praise be to Thee, O Christ." are written, with a short pause after "Thee". The first "O" is on a higher note than the others.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Gospel Recession

*As the Gospel Procession returns to the chancel, the congregation repeats the “Alleluia” found on the previous page.*

## 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: 900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



Musical notation for the first four stanzas of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a common time signature.

1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid - en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Musical notation for the continuation of the hymn, featuring a treble clef and a common time signature.

Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel-ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."  
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

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** O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. The heavens are the work of Your fingers, yet You willed to save us in the most humble and selfless of ways. Already eight days after being born of the virgin Mary, Your Son was at work for our salvation by fulfilling Your Law and shedding His blood. Receive our heartfelt thanks for the righteousness and forgiveness of sins we have obtained through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** Blessed God, You sent Your Son into our flesh, and as an infant He first shed the blood that would cleanse us from our sin. Accept our thanks for the loving kindness shown to us sinners. Grant us a steadfast faith, that we would not forget all of Your benefits or lose sight of Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** O God, You declare that in Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Him. Preserve us from all ungodly prejudice, yet instill in us a deep appreciation of our distinctive callings. Grant that we would not resent what You have called us to be and to do, but rejoice to serve as You have ordained. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Blessed Lord, You have shown Your power by establishing governments and leaders to serve Your people in Your name. Grant to our president, governor, Congress, legislators, judges and magistrates the wisdom and courage to act with integrity on behalf of all people, especially those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Father in heaven, bless and keep us by Your grace. Remember those in need who cry out to You [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. According to Your will and wisdom, lift up Your countenance upon them and give them peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy God, You invite Your children to the table of Your Son. Give us Your Holy Spirit, that we would discern Christ's body and blood in this Sacrament and come with joyful and repentant hearts to receive the foretaste of the eternal feast. Strengthen us by this blessed communion, that we would love You above all and love one another in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Father, in Your steadfast love You have put off the day of Jesus' return until the perfect time, when the number of Your elect is complete. Keep Your people watchful, vigilant and awake with Your gift of faith until that day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



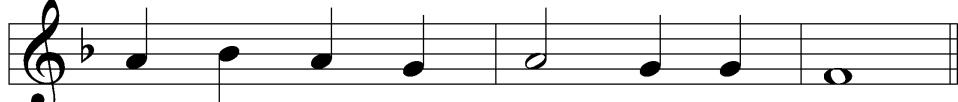
**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

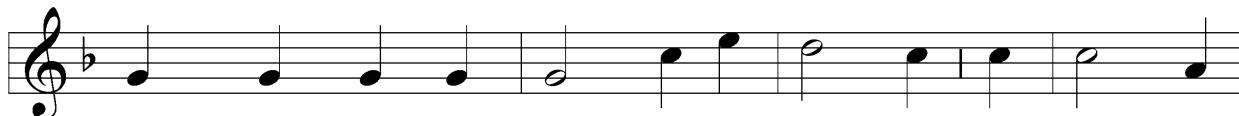
**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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;



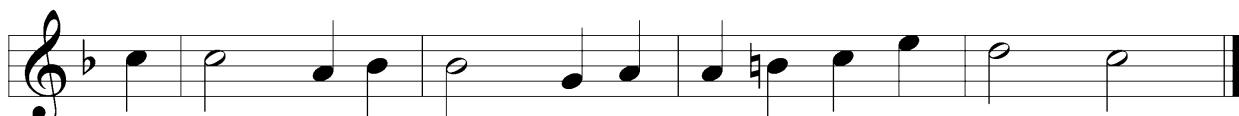
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



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

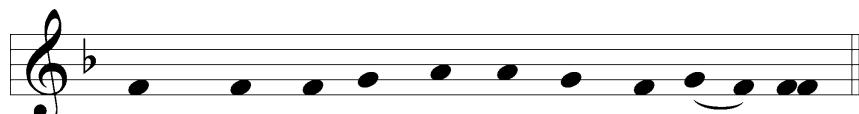
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

**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  $\text{\tfrac{1}{}}\text{\tfrac{1}{}}$  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  $\text{\tfrac{1}{}}\text{\tfrac{1}{}}$  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 of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

## Distribution Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de-filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de-filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

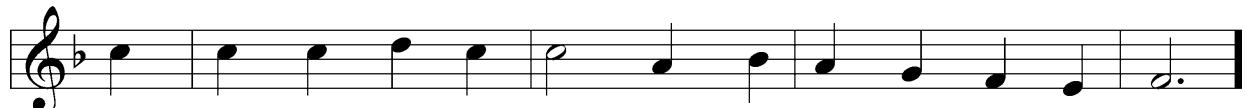
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald

Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

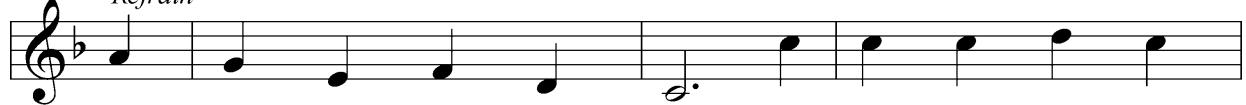


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re-mains on high,  
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,

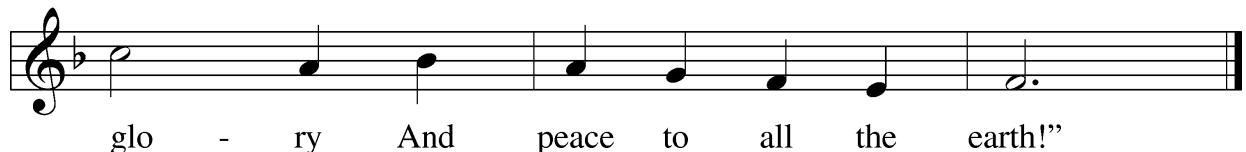


The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
 And cher - u - bim sing an - them To shep - herds from the sky.  
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.  
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634-c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

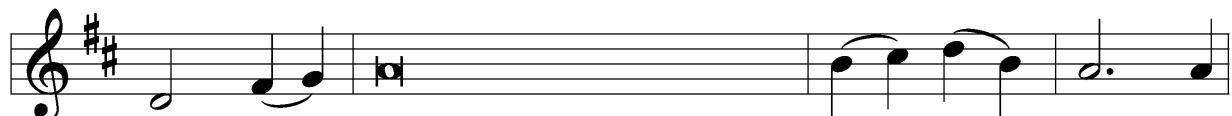
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

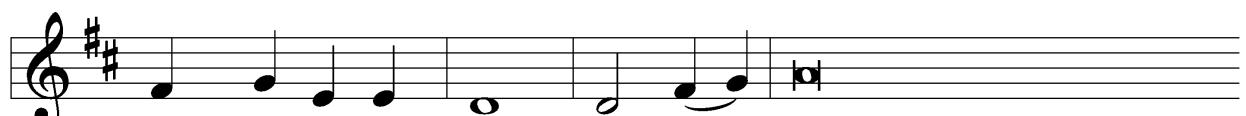
*Stand*

**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

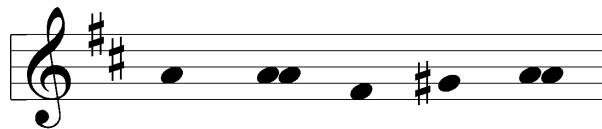
*Psalm 107:1*

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

A - men.



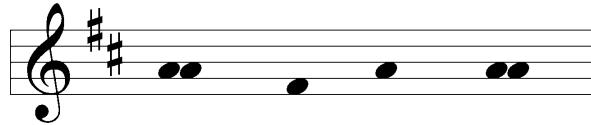
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*



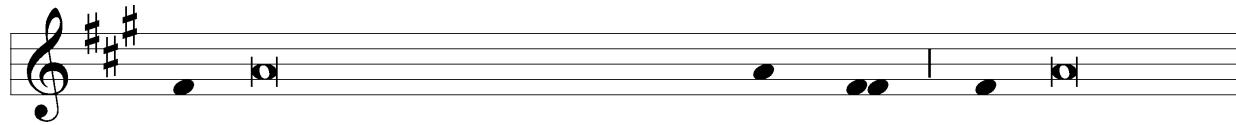
**A** Bless we the Lord.



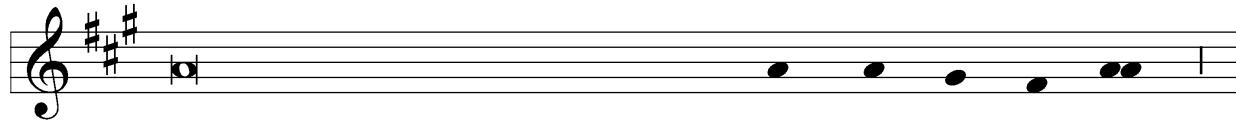
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

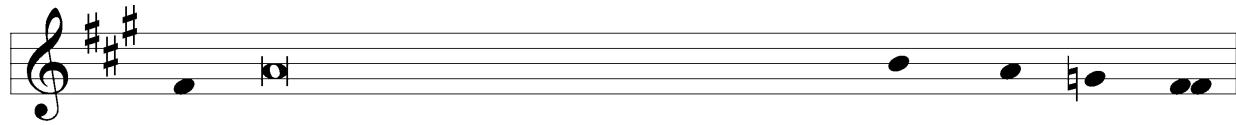
*Numbers 6:24–26*



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



His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.



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



**C** A-men, amen, a - men.

*Sit*

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

## Closing Hymn: 376 Once in Royal David's City

*At the final stanza, please stand for the Cross Recession. Here, you are encouraged to bow your head in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.*

1 Once in royal Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.  
leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/1**    **The Circumcision and Name of Jesus**  
• Divine Service 9:30 a.m.  
• Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 1/2**    **Church Office closed for New Year's**
- Tue. 1/3**    **Board of Elders' Meeting** 7:00 p.m., Library
- Wed. 1/4**    **Wednesday Nights in Christ** 5:15 – 6:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
**Midweek Adult Bible Study** 5:45 p.m., Library
- Thu. 1/5**    **Pastor out of the office in the afternoon**
- Fri. 1/6**    **The Epiphany of our Lord**
- Sat. 1/7**    **Men's Bible Study** 9:00 a.m.  
**Undecorate the Church** 10:00 a.m.
- Sun. 1/8**    **The Epiphany of our Lord (obs.)**  
• Divine Service 9:30 a.m.  
• Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY** - All are welcome to join Pastor Vergin in the Fellowship Hall after church this morning (around 10:45 a.m.) as he continues teaching on the Book of Genesis. The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin. We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

**JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2023!** For us Christians, there is no greater joy than meditating on the Holy Scriptures, for there God proclaims to us the Truth of Christ, so that in Him we might have life! With this in mind, the Board of Elders invites you to join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023. The reading schedule for 2023 is laid out differently than the schedule for 2022. If you are interested in going through the Bible in 2023, and would like a copy of the reading schedule, please see Pastor Vergin.

MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 - Would you like to deepen your knowledge of God's Word and be refreshed in the peace of Christ during the week? Please join us for our Midweek Bible Study! This study will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-6:45pm (during our Wednesday Nights in Christ children's program), resuming on **January 4**. We will be meeting in the library, and the study is discussion-based. We hope you will consider joining us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN CHRIST YOUTH PROGRAM - St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth invites all kids ages 4 through those in 5th Grade to attend our weekly Wednesday Nights in Christ program! This program for youth is both educational and fun and it will resume this week on **Wednesday, January 4**. Each Wednesday, we serve a simple dinner to kids and their parents from 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. After that, the kids enjoy hearing a different Bible lesson each week as they help our teachers place Bible characters and background decor on a large, felt flannel board. Lastly, the kids will either make a holiday craft, play games, or be taught some life skills by a special speaker. Don't wait to register! If you know of a youth that would like to attend, feel free to visit St. Mark's website to sign them up!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held this **Saturday, January 7** from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will continue our study of the book of Revelation. We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP UNDECORATE THE CHURCH - Many hands will be needed in order to undecorate our church in time for the Epiphany celebration. Therefore, we are asking all those who can to gather in the sanctuary on **Saturday, January 7** at 10:00 a.m. in order to put away all of our beautiful church decorations for another year. Can we count on you to help?

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD – Next **Sunday, during the Divine Service on January 8**, we will observe the Feast of the Epiphany (Epiphany proper is on January 6). On this day, we remember the visit of the magi who were led by the star to the King of the Jews, that they might worship Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In this way, God revealed the glory of Christ to the nations, that we all might be saved through faith. We hope you will join us for worship on this day!

INSTALLATION OF 2023 CHURCH SERVANTS - As we begin a new year in the Lord, we look forward to many new opportunities to serve this world and to serve one another in His name. Therefore, as we do every year, during our Divine Service on **Sunday, January 15**, we will be performing the Rite of Installation of Servants. Here, we will publicly install all those who have volunteered to serve our congregation in an official capacity in the year 2023. This includes all board members and officers, as well as ushers, musicians, offering counters, greeters, etc. If you will be serving in such an official capacity, we invite and encourage you to take part in this rite, that you might go forward in your service with the Lord's blessing and with the thanks of His people. We do thank all who have volunteered to serve! We look forward to working hand-in-hand with you in God's kingdom in the upcoming year!

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OR OUR LORD DIVINE SERVICE - On Sunday, January 29,** we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. On this day, we'll remember how Jesus was transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James, and John, shining out with His own divine glory. In this way, the season of Epiphany is brought to its culmination, and we see Jesus for who He truly is. We look forward to seeing you on January 29!

**NO QUILTING BEE IN JANUARY –** St. Mark's Quilting Bee will not be meeting in January. This group will resume meeting on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall **starting in February.**

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

**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  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the envelope paper around the stamp.

**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.**

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

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!



### SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Altar Guild Duty

Barb Allen

Elder on Duty

Charlie Powell

Greeters

Sue Ingram & Judy Schassberger

Offering Counters

John & Debbie Sidelinker

Usher

Trent Johnson

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman