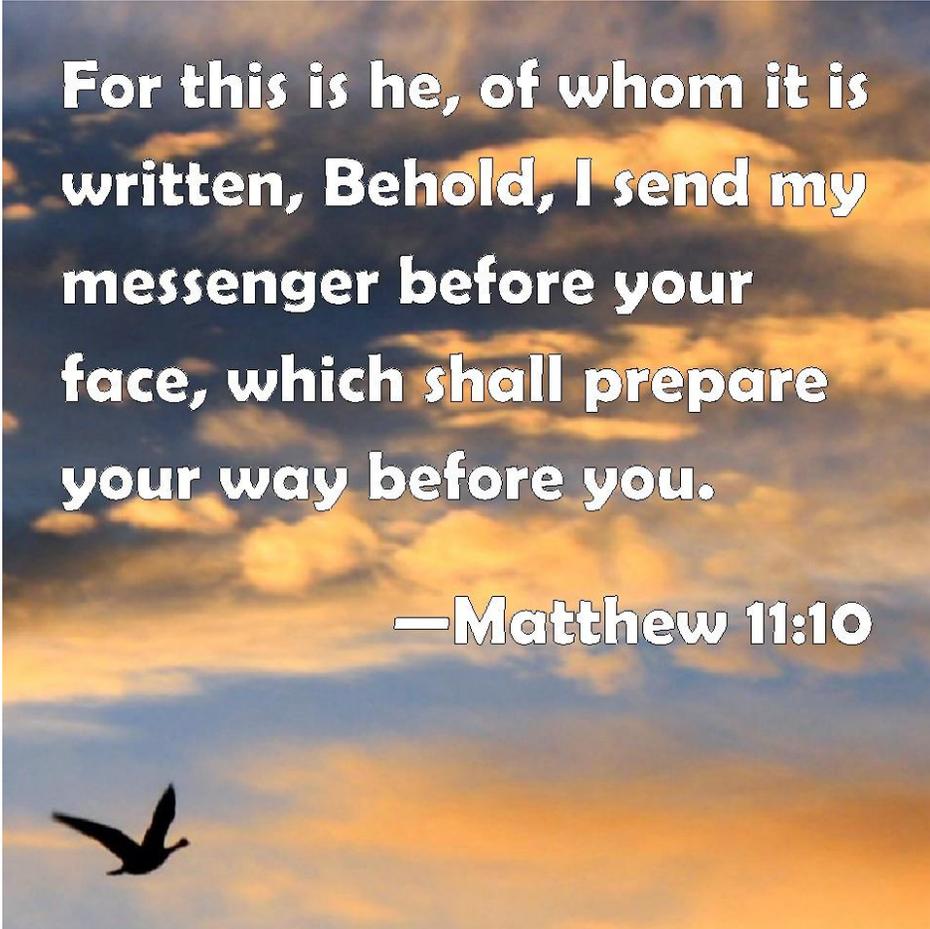


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**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

11 December A✠D 2022

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.

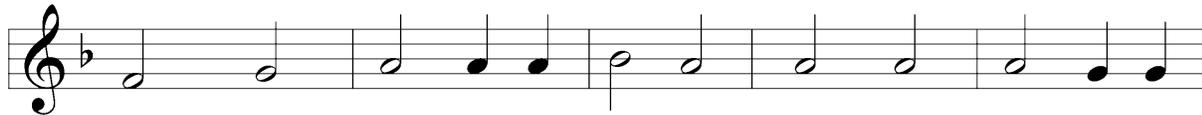
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

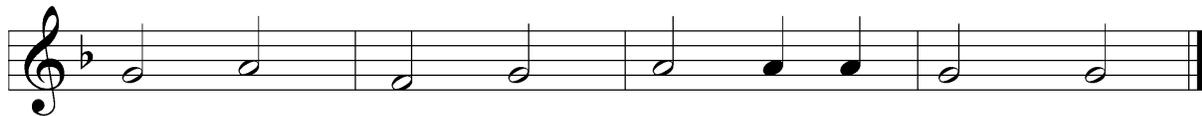
C Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



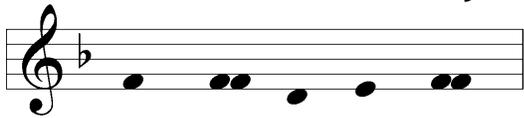
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 80:1–2

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

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

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Alleluia



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

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



☐ 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.”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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: 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

Sit

Offering

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

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



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

Stand
Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For joy at all times and faithfulness in word and deed, that all may recognize our confidence in Christ, whose coming we await, 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 for all missionaries, especially Joe Boway, that the Lord would grant fruitfulness to their labors for the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For persecuted Christians everywhere, that they would be comforted in their hardships and emboldened to persevere in confessing the saving Word of God, which stands forever, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Congress and the justices of our nation; Joseph, our president; Gretchen, our governor; and all others in positions of civil authority, that they may diligently

administer their duties in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and grieving, [*especially _____,*] that as the day draws near when blind eyes see, deaf ears hear, lame legs leap and mute tongues sing for joy, God would grant them healing and strength according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to believe Christ's testament, to seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and to confess His truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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.



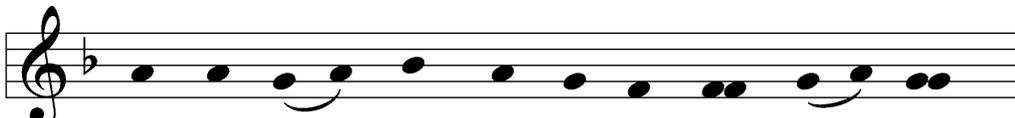
C And with thy spir - it.



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, 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

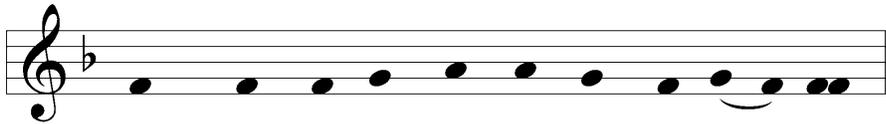
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 346 When All the World Was Cursed



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



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



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



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

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

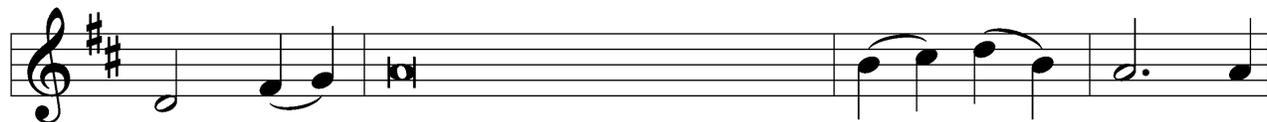
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

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Tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



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



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



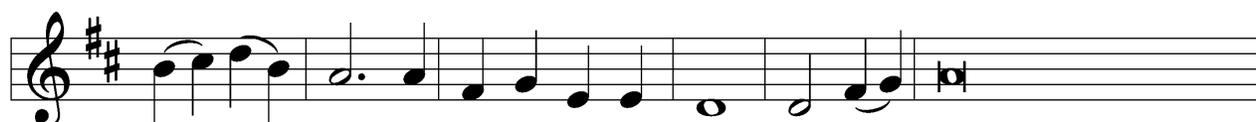
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



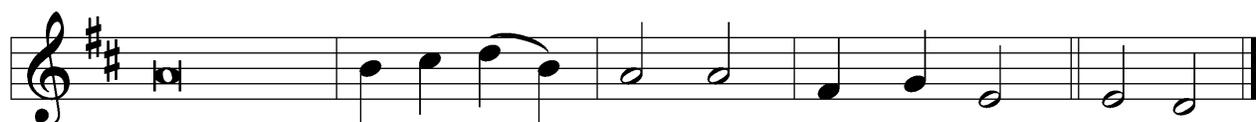
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



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



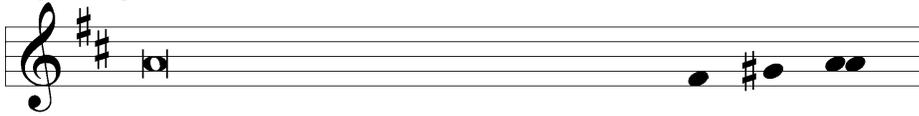
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



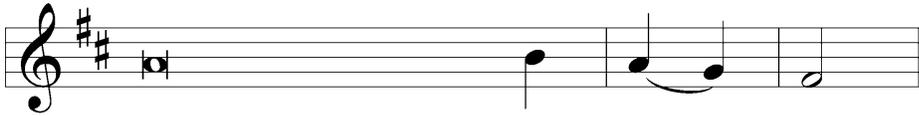
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



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



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



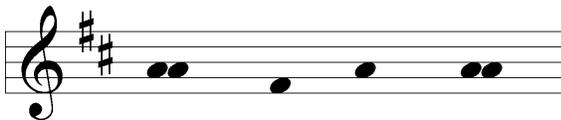
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



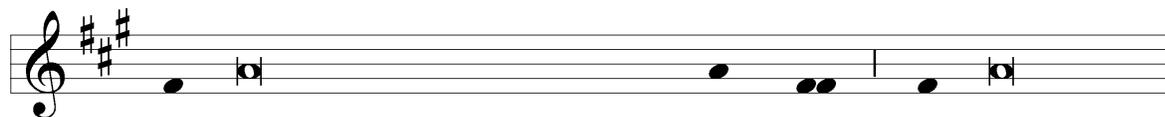
A Bless we the Lord.



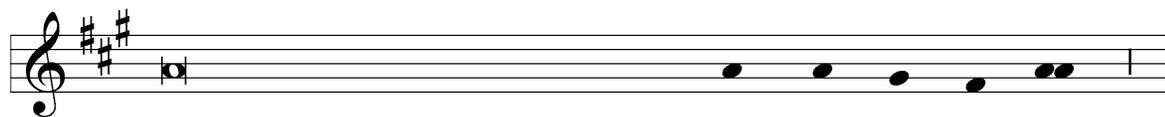
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

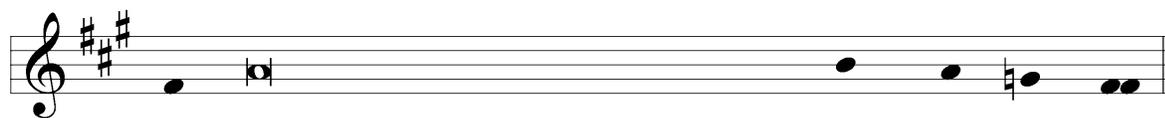
Numbers 6:24–26



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



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



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



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

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: 349 Hark the Glad Sound



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



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



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

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 12/11 The Third Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Mon. 12/12 Pastor's Day Off

Wed. 12/14 Wednesday Nights in Christ Program:

- **Dinner** 5:15 p.m.
- **Youth Bible Lesson** 5:45 p.m.
- **Craft/Life Skill/Game** 6:15 p.m.

Midweek Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

Thu. 12/15 Pastor out of the office in the p.m.

Fri. 12/16 Deadline to submit January's newsletter articles

Sun. 12/18 The Fourth Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE CLASS – St. Mark's Adult Bible Study takes place in the Fellowship Hall **each Sunday**, at 10:45 a.m. and all adults, and youth in middle or high school, are welcome to attend. Pastor will continue to teach on the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin. Please join this educational class, if you can!

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES CONTINUE – We hope you will join us for worship during the Wednesday evenings of Advent—**December 14 & 21**—at 7:00 p.m. as we hold our annual Advent Midweek Services. Here, we will gather during this special season of repentance to receive the Lord's Word and to wait for His salvation. These services will follow a series titled "In the Beginning Was the Word: An Advent Series on Genesis." Just like last year, circuit pastors will be rotating between churches for these services, so we hope you will welcome the visiting pastors! Please make these services a part of your yearly Advent preparations!

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN CHRIST – Our midweek program for kids called *Wednesday Nights in Christ* continues to meet **each Wednesday** starting at 5:15 p.m. All kids, ages 4 through those in 5th Grade, are invited to join us for this fun and educational class! The program will always begin with a simple dinner at 5:15 p.m., followed by a Bible lesson at 5:45 p.m., and conclude with a craft, game, or “Life Skills” speaker at 6:15 p.m. The program will end each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. If you haven’t registered your child or grandkids yet, please do! Also, any child who brings a friend will get to choose a cool prize! Just visit our website at www.stmarkwb.org, hover over the “Contact/Registration tab,” and you’ll see the Wed. Nights in Christ Registration form that you can then complete. **We are also seeking dessert donations for each night of class.** A sign-up sheet has been posted in the lobby for anyone who might be interested in helping in this way!

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. If you are interested in participating, please plan to stick around for a few minutes after church on **Sunday, December 18**. At that time, Pastor Vergin will be introducing the reading plan and getting a list of participants. If you would like to join in, but can't be at church that day, please let Pastor know!

WRAPPING PAPER, GIFT BAGS AND BOWS FOR SALE – The Board of Human Care has wrapping paper, bows and gift bags for sale in the lobby for a donation to the Joe Boway fundraiser. You can pick out whatever you need and donate as you wish. Donations can be given to Karen Kaufman or Leslie Oehring. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to them also.

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

The readings for Week 50 (December 10 – December 17) are:

Sun	11-Dec	Colossians 1-4
Mon	12-Dec	1 Thessalonians 1-5
Tue	13-Dec	2 Thessalonians 1-3
Wed	14-Dec	1 Timothy 1-6
Thu	15-Dec	2 Timothy 1-4
Fri	16-Dec	Philemon 1; Titus 1-3
Sat	17-Dec	Hebrews 1-4

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES - At St. Mark's, we will be holding two different services in celebration of Christmas. First, on **Saturday, December 24**, we will be holding our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service. This service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include many of your favorite Christmas Hymns, ending with Silent Night sung by candlelight. Then, on **Sunday, December 25**, we will be holding our annual Christmas Day Divine Service. This service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will include Holy Communion. We hope you will join us as we celebrate with joy the birth of Christ!

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

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

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

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

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

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¼" of the envelope paper around the stamp.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Altar Guild

Julie Kosmalski/Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Tom/Debbie LoCascio

Offering Counters

John & Debbie Sidelinker

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpet

Chris Gerard

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman