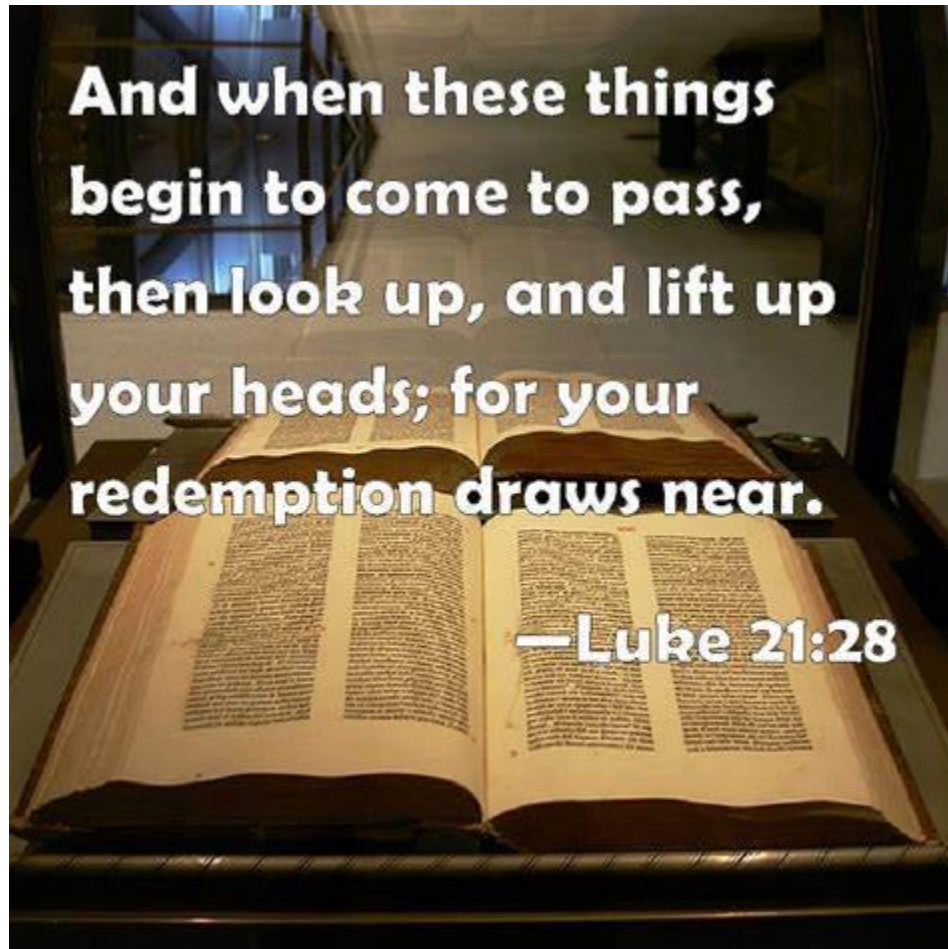


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Website: www.stmarkwb.org



The Second Sunday in Advent

10 December A✠D 2023

Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Second Sunday in Advent. On this day, as we continue through this season of penitential waiting, we set our eyes and our hearts on Christ's second coming on the Last Day. On this day, the current creation will be destroyed because of sin, along with all those who don't believe. However, for all of us who do believe in Christ, it will be for us the great day of our redemption. Therefore, we wait for it with eager anticipation.

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: 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: Charles Wesley, 1707–88

Tune: attr. Johann G. Werner, 1777–1822

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

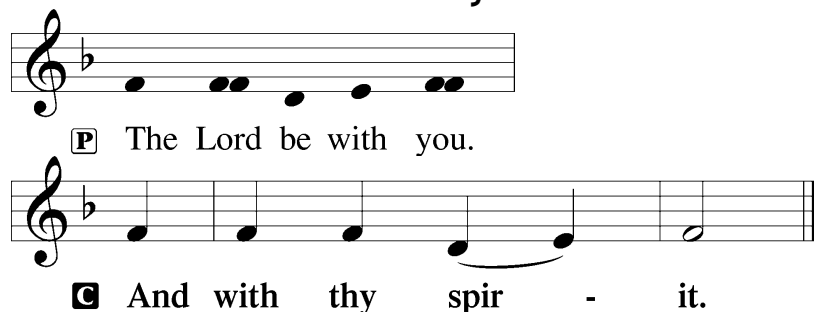
Mark 10:47



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

During Advent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

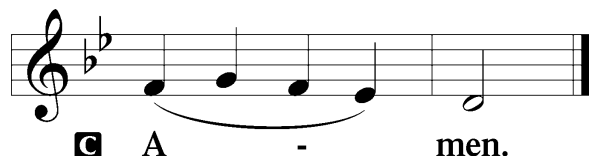
Salutation and Collect of the Day



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

P Let us pray.

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,

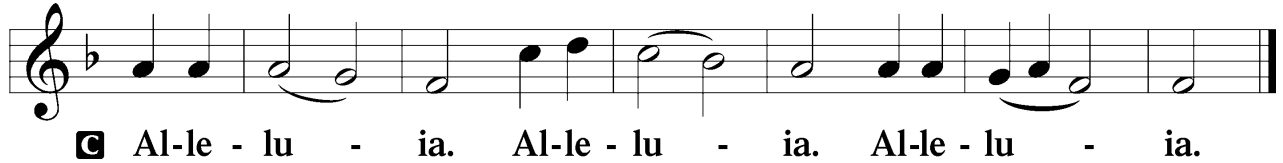
“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

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.

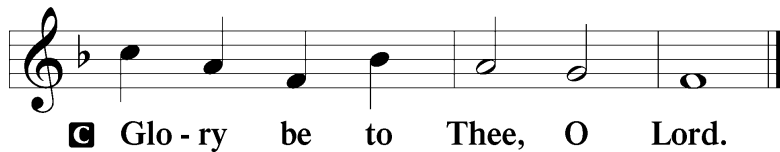
Stand
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

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



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.



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

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 - lu - ia,
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,

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: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99

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 Lord of hosts, You have given all judgment over to the Son of Man, our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. Make us ever mindful of His coming, and keep us steadfast in the Word of Christ, that in accord with Him, we may live in harmony with one another and together glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of Your Christ will not. Give to our congregation the strength to endure whatever trials You see fit to send us, and continue to guide the people of St. Mark's in choosing a suitable pastor according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of comfort, send pastors and missionaries to proclaim Your saving Gospel, especially to those who have not heard it, that Your Holy Spirit would cause them to abound in hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, preserve the schools of the Church and our baptized children, that our people may constantly be nurtured in the hope of our redemption at Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting God, You warn us against preoccupation with the cares of this life while setting tasks before us in which to love You and serve our neighbor. Grant us joy and skill in our various vocations, that we may faithfully serve You with cleansed minds, awaiting the day of our Lord's return. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, be near to our nation and its armed forces, and guide all nations of the world, that those entrusted with positions of public service might serve honorably and well for the protection of others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father, give ear to the cries of Your children. In Your gracious goodness, restore the ill, the lonely, the homebound, the depressed, those near death, and those in any need [*especially* _____]. Shine Your face upon all those who call upon You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Grant repentance and firm trust to all who commune this day, that receiving Your true body and blood, they may be forgiven and abound in hope, able to stand with a clean conscience before Your judgment throne. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, Your anger at our sin is just, and yet Your mercy abounds to us for redemption. Grant us repentant hearts, that we would not continue in sin or wander away from the faith, but rather recognize our sin, turn from it and receive Your forgiveness. Grant us a clear conscience for Christ's sake, that we may live joyfully and without fear; 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.

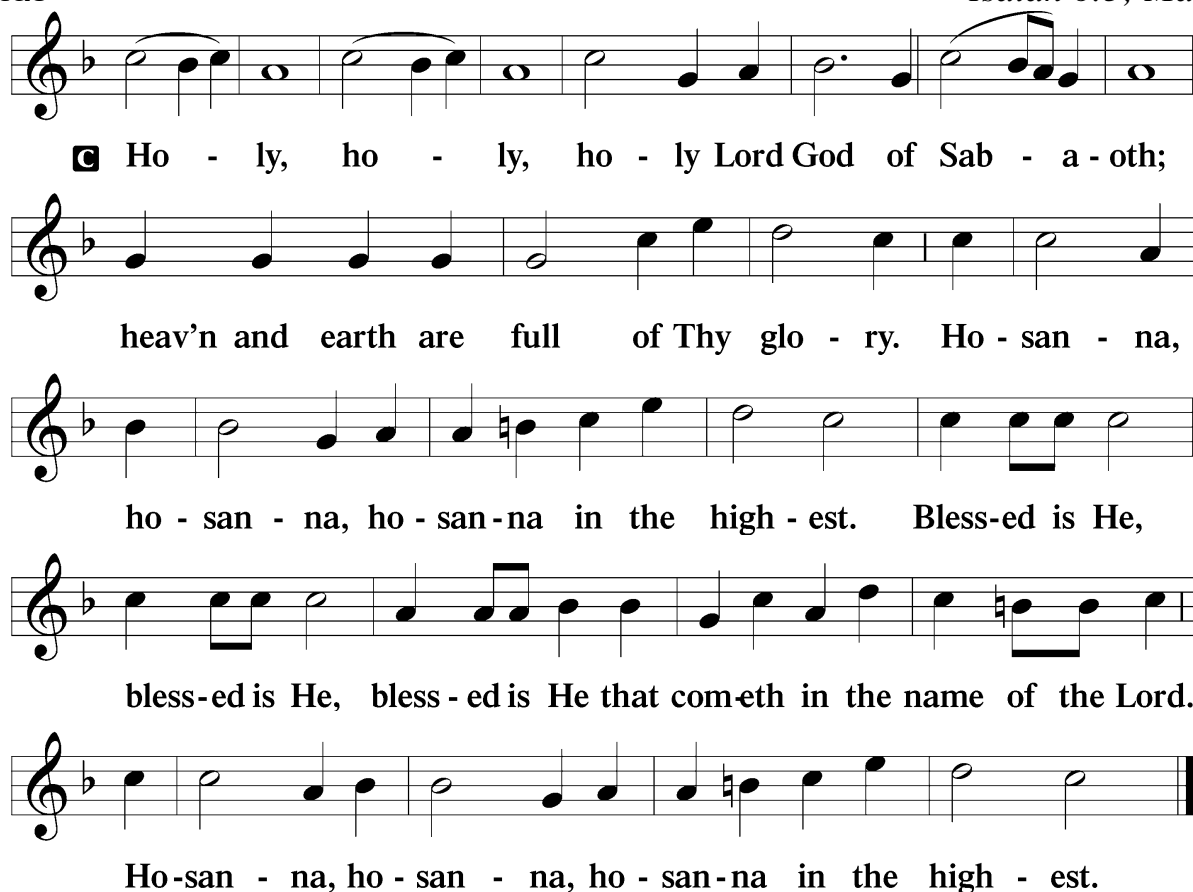


C It is meet and right so to do.

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, 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 by all)

Matthew 6:9–13

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



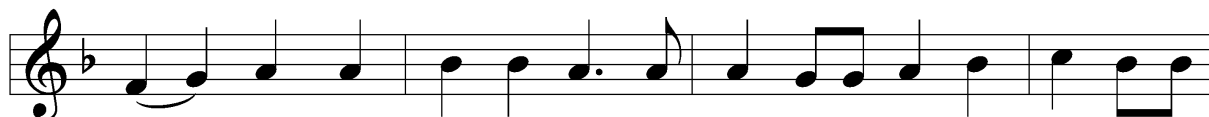
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home,
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints,
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit

When shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows
O sweet and pleas - ant soil! In thee no sor - row
Con - tin - ual - ly are green; There grow such sweet and
And ev - er - more do spring; There ev - er - more the

have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
an - gels dwell And ev - er - more do sing.

5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.

Tune: American

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

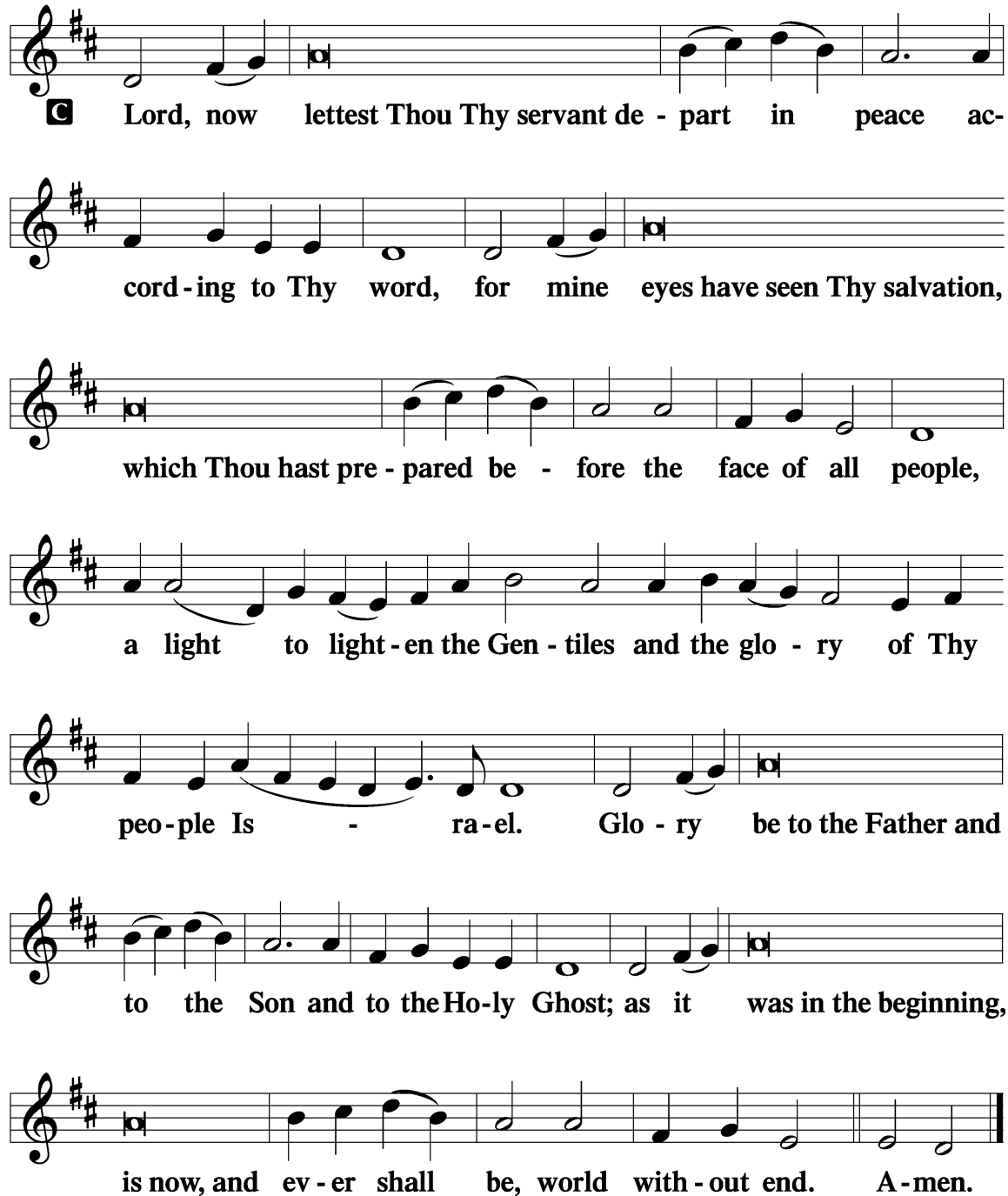
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

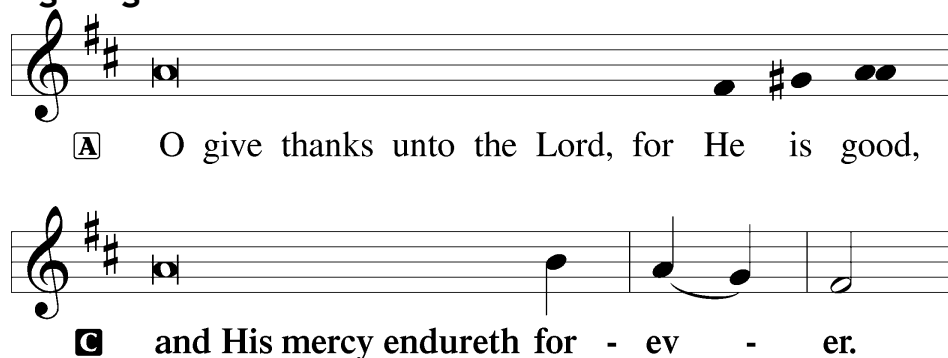
Luke 2:29–32



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

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.



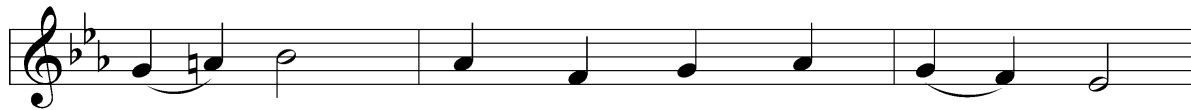


■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 333 Once He Came in Blessing



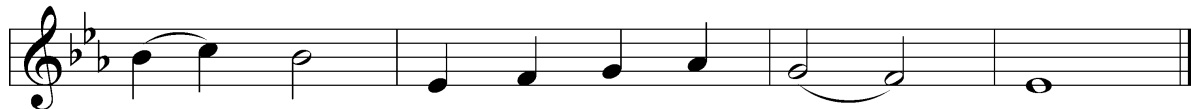
1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 12/10 The Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor Rod Zwonitzer presiding

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

Wed. 12/13 Midweek Advent Worship Service 7:00 p.m., Faith Lutheran, Highland

Fri. 12/15 Deadline to submit January's newsletter articles

Sun. 12/17 The Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor Terry Nelson presiding

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

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

- December 13 at Faith Lutheran Church, 3501 E. Highland Road, Highland Twp.: *The Truth of Man, the Truth of God*
- December 20 at Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Road, Milford: *Life in the Flesh, Life in the Spirit*

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

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR *LUTHERAN WITNESS* MAGAZINE - It's that time of year again where church members can either renew, or newly-subscribe, to the *Lutheran Witness* Magazine, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, LW provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal faith growth, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Your subscription would run from March 2024 through February 2025, and the cost is \$19/year if ordered through St. Mark's. If you'd like to order or renew, please make your check payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, place it into a green offering envelope (found in the pew racks), write "Lutheran Witness" on the envelope, and place it into an offering plate **NO LATER THAN TODAY, DECEMBER 10**. It's that easy! Any questions regarding the *Lutheran Witness* can be directed to Debbie LoCascio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMBINED EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE ON JANUARY 6 – For the upcoming Epiphany Service on **January 6, 2024**, our circuit is planning to have a combined worship service to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Milford (time TBD), and all church members of St. Mark’s are invited to attend! The circuit has already secured David Davis, President of our Michigan District LCMS headquarters, to preach at the service. Final details are still in the works, but you’ll want to put this event on your calendars now as it’ll be something you won’t want to miss!

TAKING DOWN OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – Yes, we just put up St. Mark’s Christmas decorations not too long ago, but just in case anyone is wondering, we will be seeking volunteers to take down the decorations on **Saturday, January 6** starting at 10:00 a.m. Can we count on you to help?

INSTALLATION OF 2024 CHURCH SERVANTS – On **Sunday, January 21** during the Divine Service, we will be installing our church servants into their 2024 positions. This includes all those who are serving as officers, board members, musicians, and in non-elected positions within St. Mark’s. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who help keep St. Mark’s running!

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

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

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

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing “Joe Boway” on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark’s), or visiting the St. Mark’s website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rod Zwonitzer
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman & Karen Kaufman

Worship Assistant

Trent Johnson

Greeter(s)

Kelly Lekas

Offering Counters

Nancy Hewson & TBD

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

John Reardon