

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Matthew 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

The Second Sunday after Christmas

2 January A[✠]D 2022

Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Second Sunday after Christmas. On this day, we continue our joyous celebration of our Savior's birth, as we remember the flight of the holy family into Egypt, by which God protected His Christ from the wrath of King Herod. Although there are many who, like Herod, hate this newborn King and all who follow Him, we receive Christ today with humility and resolve to suffer with Him, for we know the power of His salvation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 8:1, 4–6; antiphon: v. 2

- P** Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- P** O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- C** **What is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**
- P** Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
- C** **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet.**

**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** Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



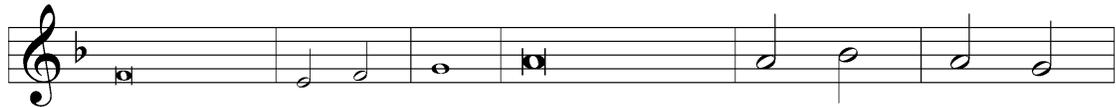
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



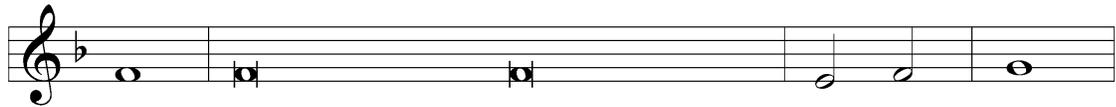
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

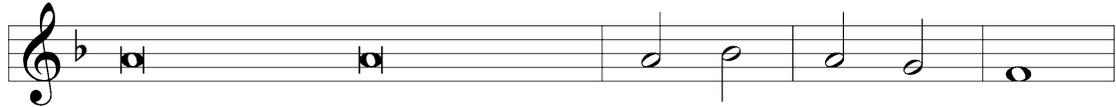
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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,



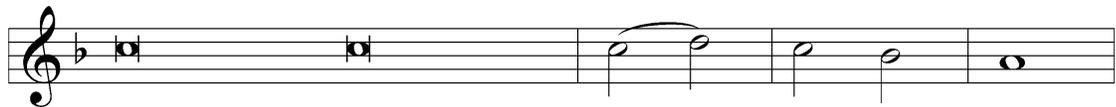
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



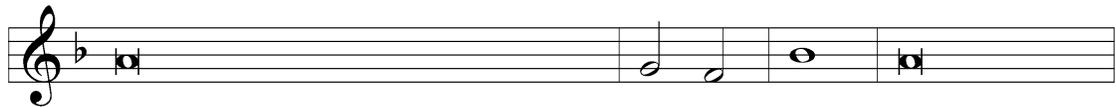
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



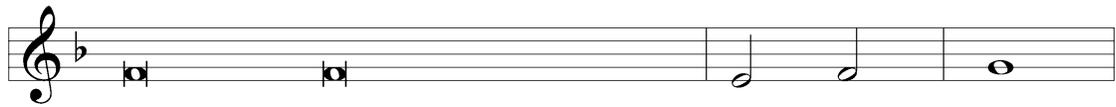
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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.

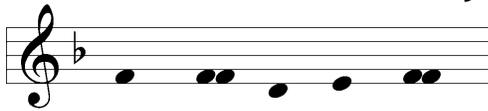


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



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. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; 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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 46:1-7

¹So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here am I.” ³Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.”

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons’ sons with him, his daughters, and his sons’ daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 106:47; Isaiah 63:16b

P Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

C You, O LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:12–19

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Alleluia



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Sermon

Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located at the end of 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

Presentation of Pledges to the Lord

P O Lord, You have graciously blessed us with every good thing in Christ, that we might be generous in all our offerings, giving to others as You have given to us. Receive now these pledges which we make in Your holy presence, both those presented before you here and those which we make in our hearts. Grant us the faithfulness to fulfill them, according to Your blessing upon us. And, through us, provide for Your Holy Church, that the preaching of Your Gospel may resound in this place, and in every place, for generations to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the joy of Christ's birth, through whom the divine image is restored to mankind; for the joy of Baptism, in which God bestows this image upon us; and for the joy of adoption as His sons and daughters, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church, that God would preserve her in faithfulness; for her ministers, that God would give them delight in this joyful season and restful reflection on the mystery of the incarnation which they preach; and for all missionaries, especially Joe Boway, that the Lord would empower them to proclaim His Gospel with joy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For mothers and their children, especially infants and the unborn, that God who has perfected His praise in the mouths of babes and nursing infants would turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Joseph, our president; for all public servants; and for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, [*especially* _____,] that the Lord would care for them in mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For a worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, that Christ's body and blood may fill our hearts with heavenly peace and gladness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord God, heavenly Father, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sakes and led Him safely home to His fatherland. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; 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 ✠ 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: 385 From East to West



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
 △ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:

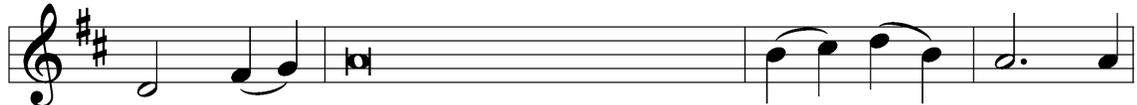


Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



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



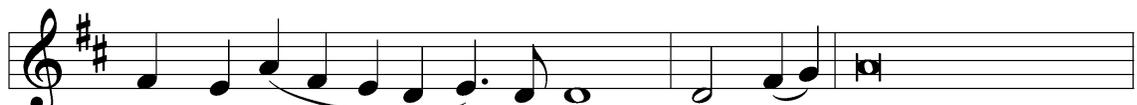
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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



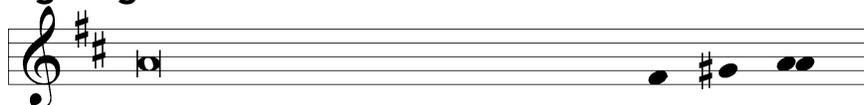
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



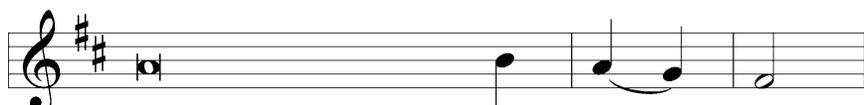
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



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



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



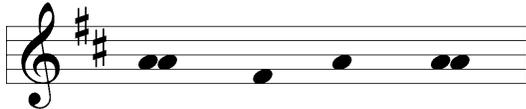
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



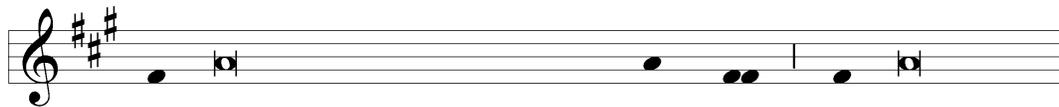
A Bless we the Lord.



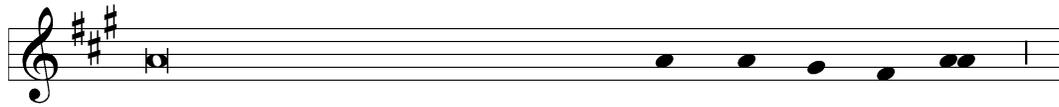
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

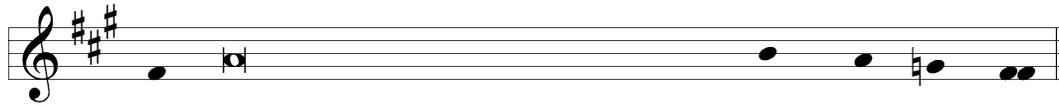
Numbers 6:24–26



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



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



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



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

Closing Hymn: 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/2** **The Second Sunday after Christmas**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 - **Sunday School for Kids** 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room
- Mon. 1/3** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 1/4** **Board of Elders' Meeting** 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 1/5** **Holy Communion Service** (wear masks) 4:30 p.m.
- Fri. 1/7** **The Epiphany of our Lord**
Pastor out of the office in the afternoon
- Sat. 1/8** **Men's Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Undecorate the Church 10:00 a.m.
Olivia & Jacob's Wedding 2:00 p.m.
- Sun. 1/9** **The Epiphany of our Lord (obs.)**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 - **Sunday School for Kids** 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for our Sunday morning Divine Services:

1. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available on the table in the entryway if you decide to use them.
2. Those who wish may request a squirt of hand sanitizer from the usher before Holy Communion, and sanitizer will also be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following Communion.
3. The "Sharing of the Peace" has been temporarily suspended.

Pastor's sermons will still be posted on St. Mark's Facebook page a day or two after each service. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – All adults are welcome to join Pastor for Adult Bible Study in the basement fellowship hall **this morning** directly following the Divine Service (**around 10:45 a.m.**) as he continues to teach on the book of Genesis. Coffee and snacks will be available too.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY – Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join Mrs. Kaufman in the upstairs youth room (behind the choir loft) right after the Divine Service for Sunday School. Sunday School **from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** Kids will hear a different Bible story each week; what a great way for them to learn about Jesus! And kids are certainly welcome to bring friends and/or family with them also!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES - We rejoice that even in the midst of the current surge in COVID cases, many have continued to come to church and receive God's Word and Sacrament among His people. However, we also understand that among our brothers and sisters in Christ, there are special cases which prohibit attendance at the gathered assembly. Therefore, so that we might all be able to receive the strength of Christ in the Sacrament, we are now offering special **midweek communion services**. These services will take place weekly on **Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.** and are meant for those who are unable to attend, or are uncomfortable attending, the Divine Service on Sunday morning. The service will be brief (~15 minutes) and those who attend will be asked to wear masks. This will be a temporary part of our worship schedule.

LAST DAY FOR OUR ANONYMOUS PLEDGE DRIVE - When we give offerings to Church, we do it because we love the Word of God and want to see it proclaimed in our community for years to come. Indeed, such giving is our Christian duty. Therefore, St. Mark's is holding an anonymous Pledge Drive through today. We are asking all congregation members to consider whether the Lord has positioned them to increase their giving going forward, and to pledge to give accordingly as long as circumstances allow. Pledge forms, with accompanying instructions, can be found at church near the elevator door across from the sanctuary exit. All received pledges in their sealed envelopes, will remain UNOPENED (your giving is between you and the Lord). The envelopes containing the pledges will be presented to the Lord with thanksgiving **TODAY Sunday, January 2** during the Divine Service. Please consider participating, as we await our coming Savior, who has freed us to be generous by His blood!

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2022! The Board of Elders is leading a reading program in which we will be going through the entire Bible in the year 2022. We hope you will participate! There's nothing more important for us than the Word of Christ, for His Word is "Spirit and Life" (John 6:63)!

The readings for Week 2 (Jan 9-15) are:

| | | |
|-----|--------|---------------|
| Mon | 9-Jan | Genesis 29-31 |
| Tue | 10-Jan | Genesis 32-35 |
| Wed | 11-Jan | Genesis 36-38 |
| Thu | 12-Jan | Genesis 39-41 |
| Fri | 13-Jan | Genesis 42-43 |
| Sat | 14-Jan | Genesis 44-46 |
| Sun | 15-Jan | Genesis 47-50 |

Yearly reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS SATURDAY – All men are welcome to join Pastor Vergin for Bible Study & Breakfast here at St. Mark's this **Saturday, January 8** from 9 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. This is a great way to gather as men of Christ to delve deeper into scripture. Bring a friend or two also, if you'd like! **For those who'd like to stay after the Bible Study to help UNDECORATE THE CHURCH, your assistance would be greatly appreciated!**

HELP NEEDED TO UNDECORATE OUR CHURCH – Volunteers will be needed to help undecorate St. Mark's on **Saturday, January 8** starting at 10 a.m. Let's work together to gently put away our congregation's Christmas decorations so that we can be prepared to observe the festival of the Epiphany of our Lord on Sunday, January 9. Can we count on you to help?

CELEBRATE CHRIST'S EPIPHANY – During the Divine Service next **Sunday, January 9**, St. Mark's will observe the Festival of Christ's Epiphany. On this day, we remember the account of the magi following the star to Bethlehem to worship the Christ. In that moment, we see how God made manifest the salvation of Jesus to the ends of the earth, so that we all might know His glory and believe in Him for salvation. It is a day of joy, for on it the Truth of Christ shines out before all nations. We hope you will join us for this celebration!

RITE OF INSTALLATION OF 2022 CHURCH SERVANTS - Pastor Vergin will be performing the Rite of Installation of Servants during the Divine Service on **Sunday, January 16**. Here, our volunteers--including officers, board members, musicians, altar guild, offering counters, teachers, etc.--will be invited up to the chancel to be installed in an official capacity and also to receive the Lord's blessing. We encourage all of our church servants to take part in this rite!

FUNDRAISERS TO SUPPORT LIBERIAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL – St. Mark's Board of Human Care will be hosting several different fundraisers over the next year in an effort to raise the \$3,000 that is needed to install a new well at the Liberian Lutheran School that we support. Please watch for additional fundraising details in our Sunday bulletins. **We are only \$600 short of having the entire \$3,000 now!** You may also choose to give a cash donation by placing any amount (checks made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) in a green pew envelope (write "Joe Boway" on the front of the envelope), or you can visit St. Mark's website and click on our online giving button where you can donate to the fund called "Joe Boway/Liberian School." Check the fundraising poster at the top of the basement stairs for dollar updates.

THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT IS SPONSORING A THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE called *Beyond the Walls with Jesus* on **Saturday, February 5** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 W. St. Joseph Highway in Lansing, Michigan. The conference will focus on ways we can make our faith shine as we engage with the culture outside the walls of the church in a world where the church is often marginalized and ridiculed. For more information, or to register, go to: michigandistrict.org/theological22. The cost is \$20 per person.

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

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

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC SEEKING FOOD DONATIONS - The Food Pantry at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac is getting low on the items listed below.

1. Rice
2. Tuna
3. Green beans
4. Baked beans (we are set for pinto, black and kidney)
5. Soups
6. Spaghetti noodles
7. Other plain pastas
8. Canned fruits
9. Family sized bars of soap (Dollar stores have best deal on personals)
10. Family sized toothpaste
11. Deodorants
12. Razors
13. Hand sanitizers
14. Diapers (newborn and size 5 and 6) we are set for other sizes
15. Diaper wipes
16. Family sized shampoo
17. Laundry detergent
18. Canned chicken and meat
19. 1# packs of chicken or hamburger
20. Dried or packages milk

These items can be purchased either at a local store or on Amazon for delivery to St. Paul. Local store-bought donations should be dropped off at St. Paul, Pontiac. Their address is: 1133 Joslyn Ave., Pontiac, MI.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR *INVISIBLE DAD* FUNDRAISER where you can donate your extra coins or cash into the jar on the rear table in the sanctuary in order to help provide lunches to underprivileged students at Keith Elementary School. We will continue to receive donations year round, and will deliver a check for the accumulated donations to Keith sometime during March of 2022. Thanks in advance for helping students in need in our community!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Barb Allen

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Mary Ann Lockwood

Offering Counters

Mary Ann Lockwood & Jean Swainson

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician

Charlie Powell