

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



*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths
and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7*

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

24 December A \times D 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Tonight we celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus. He was born for us long ago, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary. In that day, the eternal Son of God took on our humanity, that He might save us from our sins by His death on the cross. Now, in His resurrection we have a true and living hope, the promise that all who believe in Him will be saved. Therefore, we rejoice tonight to look upon this newborn baby lying in a manger, for He was born for our salvation.



Pre-Service Music

“O Holy Night”

Debbie LoCascio & Sandy Esse

Welcome

Stand

Opening Hymn: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

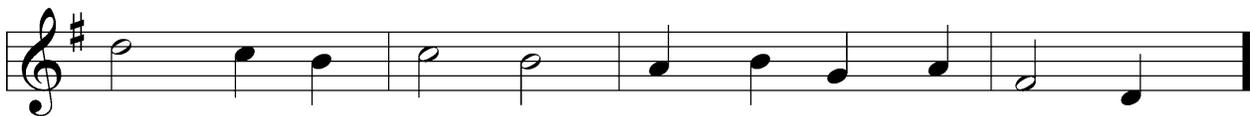
Congregation sings Stanzas 1, 3 & 4 and **all Refrains**; Youth Choir sings - Stanza 2
(Handbell accompaniment on Stanzas 3 & 4)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text

- P** When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.
- P** Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his anointed.**
- P** He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
- C** **Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,**
- P** “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

**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** When all was still, and it was midnight,
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; 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.**

Sit

Hymn: 387 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 98:3b–4a, 2

P All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

C **The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Alleluia



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

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (*spoken together*)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(Handbell accompaniment on Stanzas 2 & 3)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Offering Voluntary – Away in a Manger/Abide in Me

Mandy Vergin

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P As the night once shone long ago with the brightness of the one, true Light, enlighten our hearts, O Lord, this night, that rejoicing in the birth of our Savior we may approach Your throne of grace with courage and confidence, praying for ourselves and for all people as they have need.

Brief silence

P Merciful Father, we give You thanks for all of Your great mercies toward us, but most especially do we praise You for giving to us the gift of Your only Son. Keep us ever faithful to Jesus, that we may walk in His ways, delight in His Word, and receive through faith His eternal salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church here and throughout the world. Keep her ministers faithful in preaching and teaching Your Word, preserve those who are facing persecution, and work powerfully in us all that we might bear abundant fruit for You in love and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your blessing, O Lord, to all citizens of our land and to all those whom You have placed in positions of authority over us, especially the President and Congress of our nation, the governor of our state, and all judges and magistrates. Grant them to serve wisely and justly for the good of all. Bless also those in the armed forces and law enforcement. Keep them safe, especially at this time of year, and equip them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Be with all those, dear Lord, who suffer any need. Preserve them in the day of trouble, and provide for them healing and comfort, according to Your will. Grant to them strength, that they may not lose heart or grow weary, but continually rejoice in You and Your salvation. Grant to us also, we pray, deliverance from the current pandemic. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As our families gather together in this holy season, give to us patience that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us to extend to them the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate. Teach us to be generous in the care of those in need. Accept alongside our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, gracious and merciful, keep us steadfast amid the temptations of the evil one, and fill us with good works to the glory of Your holy name. Help us to walk in holiness all our days, as we prepare in faith for the world to come. When our last hour comes, grant us courage and enable us to rest in Christ, knowing the power of His resurrection. Then, when Your Son returns on the Last Day, bring us graciously into Your eternal kingdom, where we will see You face to face and will sing your praises forever with all Your people who have gone before. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things we ask, O Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your own Son, whom You have made known to us in the mystery of the Word made flesh, who has fulfilled all the Law and the prophets and delivered us to You as Your own people through the blood of the everlasting covenant, that we may do what is good and right and pleasing in Your sight. To You be all glory and honor, worship and praise, now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

Matthew 6:9–13

P Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Hymn: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

Benedicamus and Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Closing Music

“Silent Night Prelude” (played during candle lighting)

Mandy Vergin – Guitar

NOTE: *Worshipers are cautioned NOT to tip LIT candles lest hot wax could spill. During the Silent Night Prelude, please tip only your UNLIT candle to receive the flame, then hold it upright for your neighbor to tip their candle to receive the flame from you. Thank you.*

Candlelight Hymn: 363 Silent Night, Holy Night

Accompaniment – Mandy Vergin
Vocals – Pastor and Mandy Vergin

Pastor and Mandy will sing one Stanza in German (below), then the congregation sings Stanzas 1 & 2 in English. Stanza 3 will be sung in English a cappella (without accompaniment) by ALL.

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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We welcome you to join us for the Divine Service with Holy Communion tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. as we continue to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS EVENING

Presiding Minister
Ushers

Rev. Aaron Vergin
Tom Kaufman & Darryl Swainson

HANDBELL CHOIR

David Drake – Director
Karen Kaufman
Debbie Sidelinker
Grace Hurley
Sophie Hurley
Lexie Powell
Lori Whitehead

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Mandy Vergin – Guitar
Rob Wheeler – Organ

ADULT VOCALISTS

Sandy Esse (Debbie LoCascio's sister)
Debbie LoCascio
Pastor Aaron Vergin
Mandy Vergin

YOUTH CHOIR & GOSPEL READERS

Evy Vergin
Naomi Vergin
Selah Vergin

Tonight's Special Music:

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful (handbell accompaniment) – arranged by Jeffrey Honoré
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (handbell accompaniment) – arranged by Jeffrey Honoré
Away in a Manger/Abide in Me – arranged by Mandy Vergin
O Holy Night – piano arrangement by: The Piano Nest