

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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## The First Sunday in Advent

28 November A✠D 2021

*Divine Service, Setting III*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the First Sunday of Advent. This day marks the opening of a new Church Year, and begins for the Church a season of somber repentance, in which we lament our sins and look forward eagerly to the coming of Christ. On this First Sunday of Advent, we focus especially on Jesus' role as our humble and righteous King, who comes to us to save us from sin and death and to grant us eternal life through faith.

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

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

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

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

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

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may 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: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

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## Service of the Word

### Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 25:4–5, 21–22; antiphon: vv. 1–3a*

- P** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**  
**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**
- P** Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.
- C** **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;**  
**for you I wait all the day long.**
- P** May integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
for I wait for you.
- C** **Redeem Israel, O God,**  
**out of all his troubles.**

**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.**

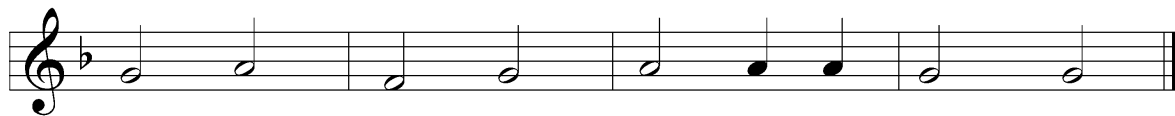
- P** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**  
**Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.**

## 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.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

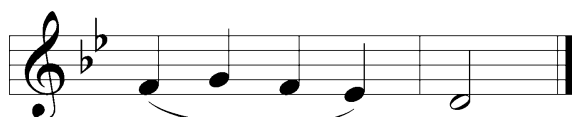


**P** The Lord be with you.



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

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:5–8

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

<sup>7</sup>“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ <sup>8</sup>but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 25:3–4*

- P** None who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** **Make me to know your ways, O LORD;**  
**teach me your paths.**

**Epistle**

*Romans 13:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

<sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**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 21:1-9*

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



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

<sup>1</sup>When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Say to the daughter of Zion,

‘Behold, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

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



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

## Nicene Creed

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

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

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Children's Message**



## Hymn of the Day: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

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## Sermon

## Offering

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

## Stand Offertory

*Psalm 51:10–12*



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

## Stand Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For constant hope in the Lord's return, that sustained by His Spirit, we may have joy at the advent of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the whole Church, that as we wait for the coming of our King, our hearts may be filled with joy and our lips with praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our parish, and for every Christian parish, especially Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia, that we might live sober lives, casting off the deeds of darkness as we wait for the revealing of our Savior from heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the schools of the Church, that in them the Word of God may be taught in its truth and purity, that Christ may dwell in the hearts of both teachers and students by faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For our nation and its leaders and for our armed forces, that God would take them under His care and let His blessing rest upon them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the sick, the suffering and those in need, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that our Father in heaven would ease their pain, increase their faith, and grant them healing and peace in accordance with His own wisdom and will, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who mourn, that Christ would comfort them with His promises and fill their hearts with the peace that passes understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who receive the Lord's Supper, that the Lord, whose Son rode into Jerusalem to save from sin and death, would prepare our hearts to welcome Him worthily in, with and under bread and wine, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Holy God, You declared that the days were coming when You would accomplish our salvation, and in Your time You caused Your Son, the righteous Branch, to spring up for David. By Your grace, keep us joined as branches to Christ, that we might bear fruit until the day He returns in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



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



**P** Lift up your hearts.



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



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



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

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



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



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,**

**Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

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

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

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

**Pax Domini**

*John 20:19*



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



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution

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

## Distribution Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



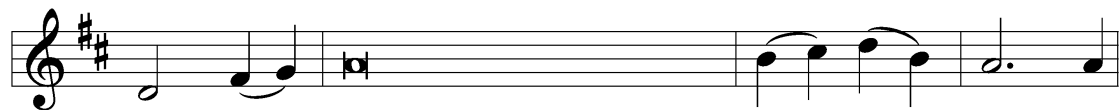
Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain




Stand  
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



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




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



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



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



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



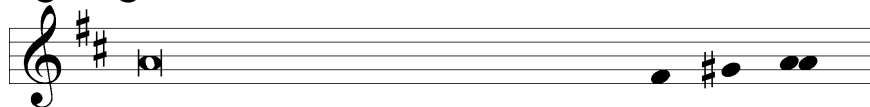
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



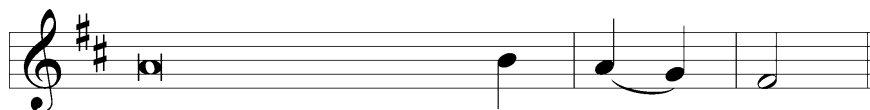
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*



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



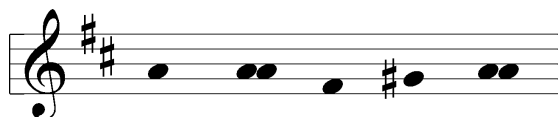
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

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



**C** A - men.



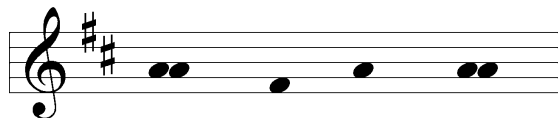
**P** The Lord be with you.



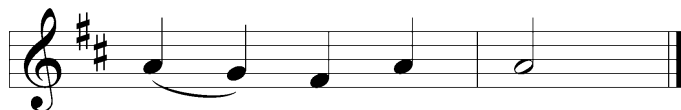
**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*



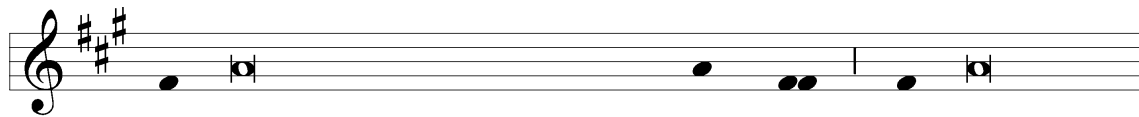
**A** Bless we the Lord.



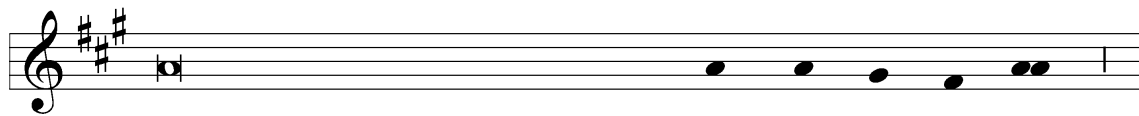
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

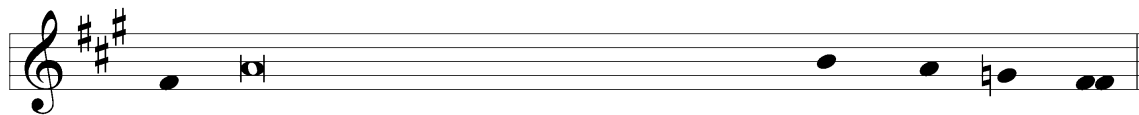
Numbers 6:24–26



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



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



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



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

## Closing Hymn: 331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sun. 11/28 The First Sunday in Advent**

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School for Kids** 10:45 a.m.

**Mon. 11/29 Pastor out of the Office**

**Tue. 11/30 Pastor out of the Office in the afternoon**

**Wed. 12/1 Midweek Worship Service** 7 p.m.

**Sat. 12/4 Men's Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**Sun. 12/5 The Second Sunday in Advent**

**CAN/BOTTLE COLLECTION for Joe Boway/Liberian well**

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Voters' Meeting** 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## 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" will be 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!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join us for Sunday School **this morning** right after the Divine Service in the upstairs youth room. Sunday School takes place at the same time as the Adult Bible Study class **from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** each Sunday. 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!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Our Sunday Adult Bible Study takes place **each Sunday morning after the Divine Service (around 10:45 a.m.)** in the basement fellowship hall, and all are welcome to attend! This morning, Pastor Vergin will continue teaching on the book of Genesis, and we hope you will join him!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN THIS WEDNESDAY – St. Mark’s will be holding our annual Advent Midweek Services on **Wednesday evenings (December 1, 8, and 15) at 7:00 p.m.** and each service will follow the order of Evening Prayer. The theme for this year is “The Hymns of Advent” in which we will look at some of your favorite Advent hymns to explore how they uniquely proclaim the coming of the Christ. This year, we will be doing something a little different with these services: We will be doing them Round-Robin style, with different Circuit Pastors leading the services. So on the first Wednesday, Pastor Vergin will be leading our service at St. Mark’s. Then, on the second Wednesday, Pastor Moyer from Faith, Highland will be leading our service. Finally, on the third Wednesday, Pastor Johnson from Christ, Milford will be leading our service. We hope you will set aside extra time to dedicate to the Word and join us!

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS’ MEETING – Next **Sunday, December 5**, following the Divine Service, we will be holding our Semi-Annual Voters’ Meeting in the basement Fellowship Hall. The agenda will include board reports, board/officer elections, and discussion/approval of a budget for 2022. All church members ages 18+ are encouraged to attend! Please mark this important date on your calendars now and plan to attend, if possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM – St. Mark’s Board of Human Care and the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford are seeking volunteers to help with this year’s Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program. There are several ways you can help: 1) sign up to adopt a family from the poster on the easel in the lobby, and take a label with a person’s name, sizes, etc. on it so you can purchase a Christmas gift for them; 2) volunteer to pick up Christmas gifts from the Open Door and take them to St. Mark’s on **Tuesday, December 7** (on an on-call basis); and/or 3) help distribute the purchased gifts to the needy families on **Thursday, December 9** at St. Mark’s between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The sign-up sheet for items 2 & 3 above is located on the clip board on the table. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Karen Kaufman.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE – Advent daily devotional booklets (blue-colored) sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. They are free, and each day starting November 28 offers a new devotion and Bible verse. Take one home today and let Advent serve as a time of prayer and study of God’s Word!

THE OPEN DOOR HAS AN IMMEDIATE NEED for kids’ pajamas (boys, girls...it doesn’t matter) in sizes Newborn to 3T. They also need kids’ socks in sizes baby, toddler and grade school. If you can help, please place your donations in the Open Door bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Any questions can be directed to Leslie Oehring.

THE NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY will take place here on **Saturday, December 4** from 9 – 10:30 a.m. in the basement fellowship hall. All men are welcome to attend! Feel free to bring a friend or relative too.

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. **The next fundraising opportunity is another Can/Bottle Drive that will take place here on Sunday, December 5.** Bring your cans & bottles to church with you that day and Karen Kaufman will take them. 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.

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR THE *LUTHERAN WITNESS* MAGAZINE – This is the time of year when the members of our congregation have the opportunity to order, or renew, subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* (LW) magazine, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Published 11 times per year, LW provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue of LW includes a free copy of the *Michigan In Touch* supplement published by our Michigan District LCMS. Next year's LW subscriptions will run from March 2022 through February 2023 and a subscription costs \$11.60 per year if ordered through St. Mark's. If you'd like to start a new subscription, or renew this year's, please place your check for \$11.60 (made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) into a green envelope (found in the pew racks), write "Lutheran Witness" on the front of the envelope, and place it into an offering plate **no later than December 8, 2021.**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER SOME CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS? We are now accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will be used to help decorate St. Mark's altar area for Christmas, after which time you can take yours home with you, if you wish. Each poinsettia plant costs \$10 and will contain 5-6 blooms. For more information, please see the pink insert found in today's service folder. All orders must be turned in to the church office **no later than December 17.**

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.

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 neighborhood!



## **SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING**

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Mary Lockwood

Offering Counters

John & Debbie Sidelinker

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician

Charlie Powell