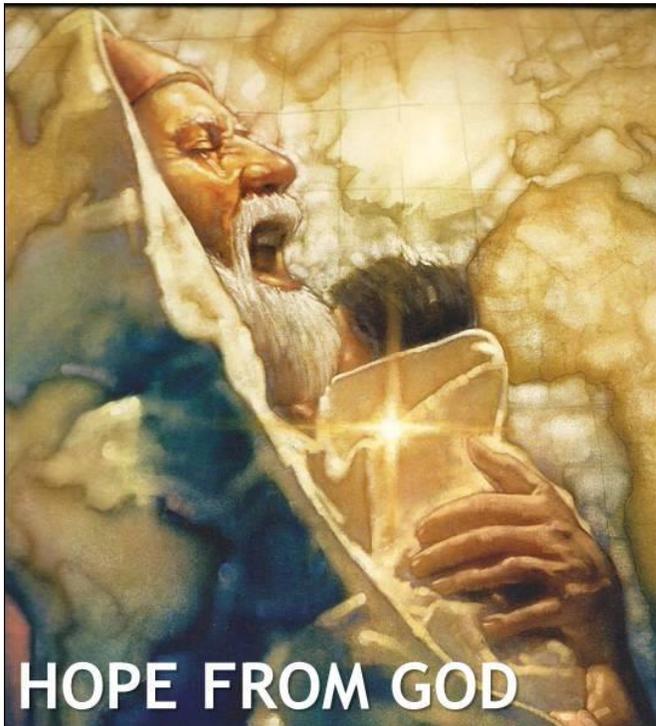


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.”

Luke 2:29-32

The First Sunday after Christmas

29 December A \times D 2019

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the First Sunday after Christmas. On this day, while the world around us has largely moved on, the Church continues her celebration of Christmas. Specifically, we remember today how, shortly after His birth, our Lord was presented to God at the Temple, where both Simeon and Anna would meet Him and joyous prophesy about Him. So too, we rejoice at His coming, knowing that in Him we have redemption.

If you are a VISITOR here, 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 receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). 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 with us 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.

Sharing of the Peace

Those who wish may stand and share Christ's Peace with one another by offering a handshake and the words, "Christ's peace be with you."

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 93:1, 3–4; antiphon: vv. 5, 2

- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.
- C** **Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.**
- P** The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.
- C** **Yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved.**
- P** The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
- C** **Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea,
the LORD on high is mighty!**

**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.**

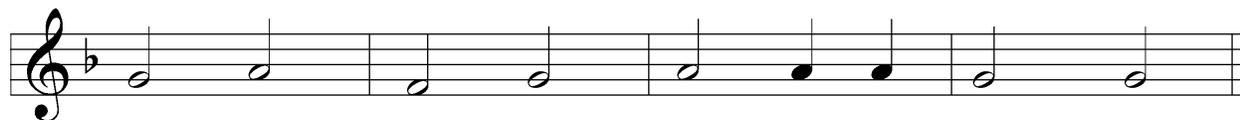
- P** Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.
- C** **Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



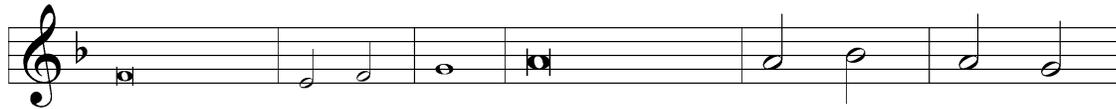
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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,



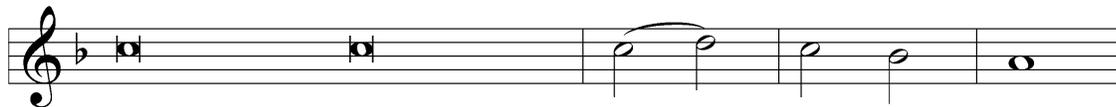
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



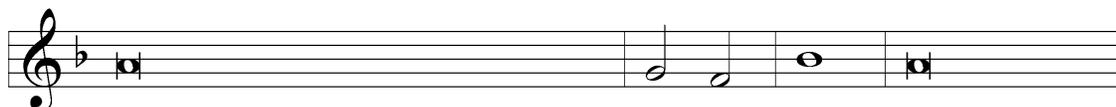
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



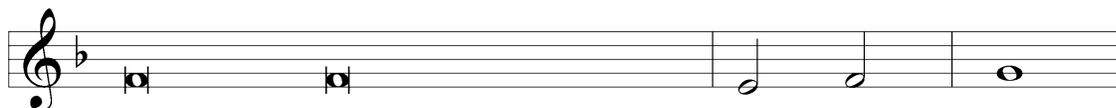
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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.

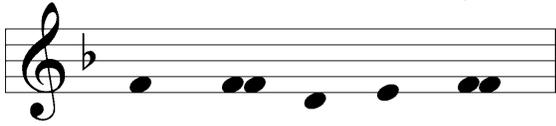


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



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.

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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

Isaiah 11:1-5

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 45:2a, 1b

- P** You are the most handsome of the sons of men;
grace is poured upon your lips.
- C** I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

Epistle

Galatians 4:1–7

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

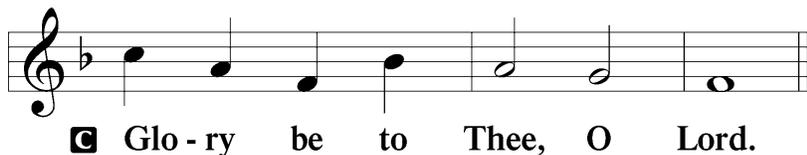
Stand Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

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



²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C 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

Hymn of the Day: 389 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

△7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

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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.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P For all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, that adopted into the Divine Family, they would rejoice in the salvation and eternal inheritance they have through Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors in Christ, that they would faithfully preach the Gospel in its purity and administer the Sacraments according to Christ's institution; and for an increase in the pastoral vocation, that Christ and Him crucified would be proclaimed everywhere, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our congregation, that we may boldly shine the light of Christ into the dark lives of those we know that do not trust in Him as Savior, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our nation, that our leaders may serve faithfully and wisely, making God-pleasing decisions and walking in integrity, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who suffer from loneliness, that they would be comforted by the sure and certain knowledge that they will never be forsaken by God, and that they would find a family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find companionship, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are sick and those who suffer, especially those for whom our prayers are desired [*including _____*], that they might be surrounded by God's love in Christ and healed according to His gracious will; and for all those who mourn, that the comfort of the resurrection might fill their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who receive the Holy Supper this day, that they would see their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given them to eat and to drink and, with St. Simeon, know that they may depart in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all our brothers and sisters who have departed this vale of tears in the peace of faith, let us give thanks and praise to the Lord; that we would be brought with them to see with our own eyes Him who is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All glory, honor and praise be to the Most Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy, holy, holy is He whose name is majestic in all the earth, through whom we have forgiveness, life and salvation. For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory 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

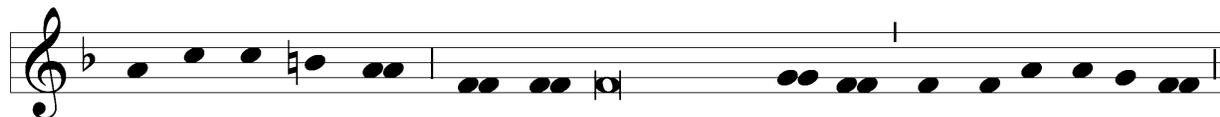
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25



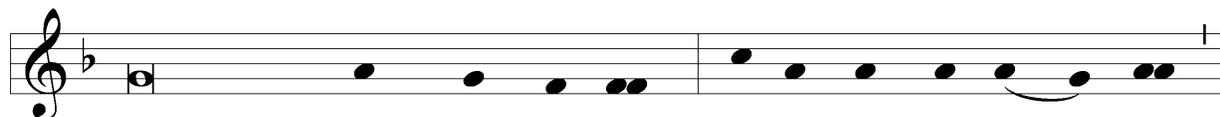
P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



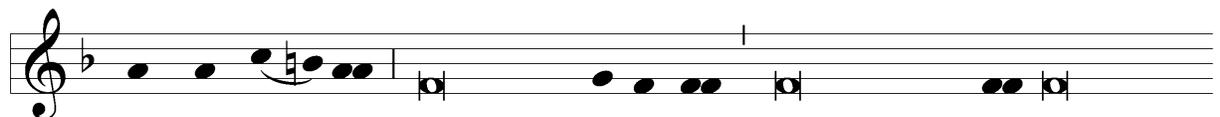
dis-ci-ples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



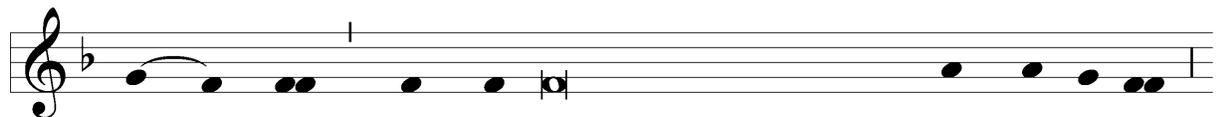
This do in re-mem - brance of Me.” In the same way al - so



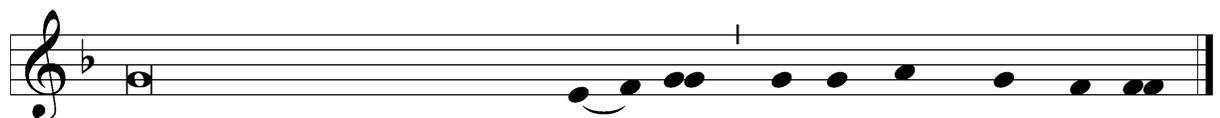
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance 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 note on inside front cover of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 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

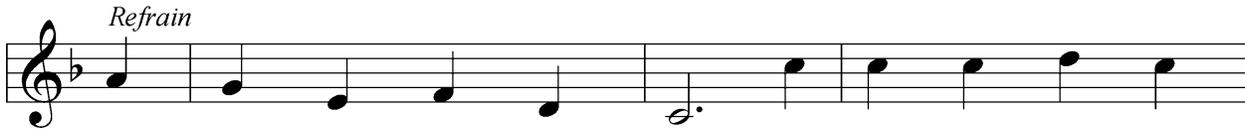
Distribution Hymn: 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be

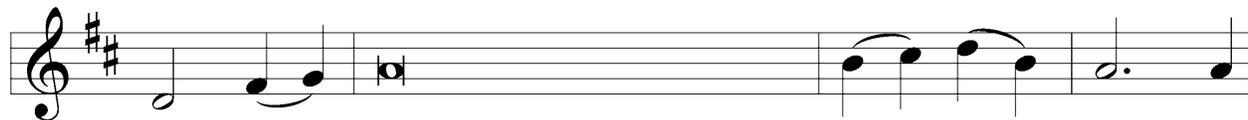


glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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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



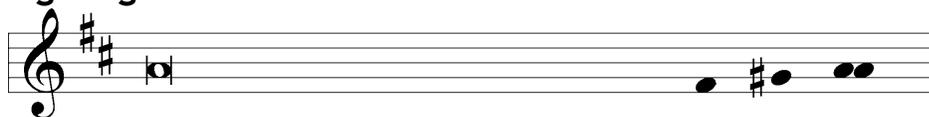
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



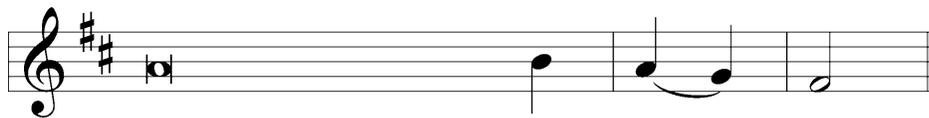
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



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



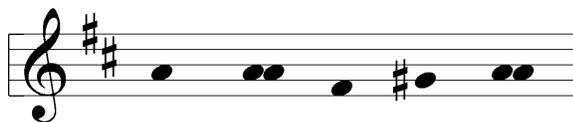
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



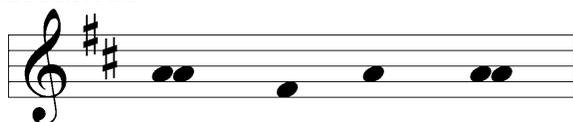
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



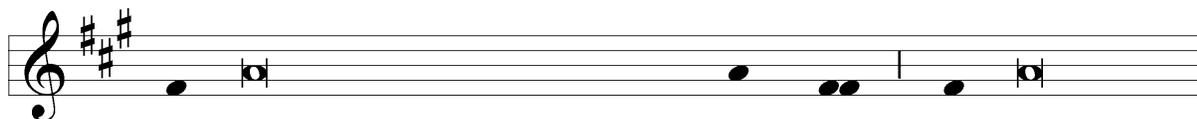
A Bless we the Lord.



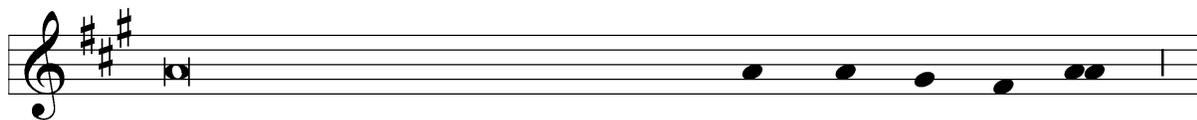
C Thanks be to God.

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: 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
 Δ 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.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 12/29** **The First Sunday after Christmas**
Pastor Vergin out of town (Rev. Dr. Frank Pies will be presiding minister)
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **No Sunday School today**
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
- Mon. 12/30** **Pastor Vergin out of town**
- Tue. 12/31** **Pastor Vergin out of town**
Church Office is open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Wed. 1/1** **New Year's Day**
Church office closed
- Sat. 1/4** **Men's Bible Study from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.,** Greek Jalapeno Restr.
Undecorate the Church 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. 1/5** **The Epiphany of our Lord**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Children's Sunday School** 10:45 a.m., Library

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – All adults are welcome to join Pastor Pies in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 a.m. this morning for Bible Study. Learn more about the three readings from this morning's Divine Service in this interesting and educational study! We hope to see you there!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY – All men are invited to meet with Pastor Vergin for Men's Bible Study class on **Saturday, January 4** from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Greek Jalapeno Restaurant on Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. This is always a great opportunity to gather as brothers in Christ to hear God's Word and enjoy fellowship (and breakfast on your own if you happen to be hungry). Please attend, if you can!

WE'LL NEED HELP TO UNDECORATE ST. MARK'S – We had such a wonderful turnout of people to help decorate St. Mark's for Christmas! Now we're asking for help to UNdecorate St. Mark's on **Saturday, January 4** starting at 10:30 a.m. (following the Men's Bible Study) as we'll begin making preparations for the green season of Epiphany. Bring the entire family to help, if you'd like!

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD FESTIVAL SERVICE – On **Sunday, January 5**, during the Divine Service at 9:30 a.m., we will observe the festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord. On this day the Church rejoices that God has caused the brightness of Christ to shine upon the entire world, remembering how long ago He drew magi from the east to worship the Christ-child, who came offering bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Truly these magi stand as a clear statement that God desires the entire world to be saved. Therefore, we rejoice on this day that Jesus shines also upon us, and that we who once were far of have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Please join us for worship on this day!

INSTALLATION OF 2020 SERVANTS – On **Sunday, January 26**, during the Divine Service, Pastor Vergin will invite all those in our congregation who will be serving our church in any capacity to come forward to be installed into their 2020 positions. This includes those serving as officers, on boards, musicians, teachers, etc.

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.**

ST. MARK'S "WELCOME BASKET" OUTREACH PROGRAM – Our Board of Gospel Outreach has expanded their Welcome Basket program to include not only the neighborhood behind church, but also the Golf Manor Subdivision as well. Anyone who would like to help offset the cost of these baskets can place their donation in a pink envelope (found in the pew racks), write "Welcome Baskets" on the front, and place the envelope into our offering plates. An example of a filled basket is now located on the shelf at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs.

LEGACY CONFERENCE: *RECLAIMING A LOST GENERATION* – On **Saturday, February 1, 2020**, the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is hosting a conference for lay people called *Legacy: Reclaiming A Lost Generation*. The conference will take place at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., and the cost is \$15 (student) or \$20 (general). Christians in general, and Christian families in particular, are under spiritual and cultural attack. As a result, more families are being broken and more individuals, especially the young, are leaving the Church. The goal of the conference is to examine the Apostle Paul's method of reaching the lost by engaging the culture (and our relatives) by "speaking the truth in love." In this way, we seek to retain our young people (and people of all ages) through healthy interactions under the blessing of our Lord. If interested, you can register online at: michigandistrict.org/theological20.

LADIES' QUILTING GROUP SEEKING SHEETS & BLANKETS – Even though our **quilting ladies won't be meeting in December or January**, they are still seeking donations of sheets and blankets to be used to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have any gently-used sheets or blankets that you are no longer using, please consider donating them to this cause! Items can be left in the Quilt Donations Box in the lobby.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Frank Pies

Pastor Emeritus, Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Hartland, MI

Acolyte

Jay Anderson

Altar Guild

Sharon Williams & Julie Kosmalski

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

Scott Miller

Video Technician

Jim O'Brien