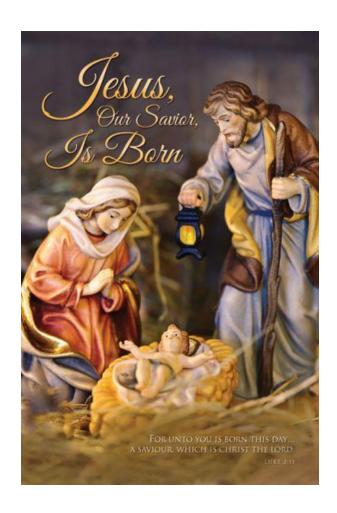
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 7979 Commerce Road West Bloomfield, MI 48324

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Website: www.stmarkwb.org



The Nativity of our Lord

25 December A≱D 2019

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

₩ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ★

On this day, we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. Here, we remember with joy the birth of Jesus among us. He came to us long ago, born of a woman, that He might dwell among us as the Word made flesh and be our eternal Savior. Therefore, as the day of His birth dawns upon us this morning, the hope of God also dawns in our hearts and we sing our Christmas praises with joy, for God promises that all who believe in Jesus will live.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> 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 <u>VISITOR</u> 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.

Announcements

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."

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.

Stand

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- 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.

Cross Procession

During the Procession, the ancient and laudable custom is to **bow your head** in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.



Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (spoken responsively)

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

- P For 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.
- P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

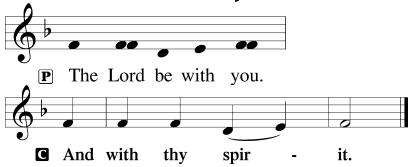
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P For 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.





Salutation and Collect of the Day



Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

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

Gradual: "Away in a Manger, Stanza 1"

Children's Handbell Choir

Epistle Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

Stand

Gospel Procession

Please stand and turn in the direction of the Processional Cross and the reader as they move into the center of the nave. The Gospel is read in the midst of the congregation to symbolize the risen Christ's abiding presence among us and to mark the high point of the Service of the Word.

Alleluia



Holy Gospel John 1:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about

him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel Recession

As the Gospel Procession returns to the chancel, the congregation repeats the "Alleluia" found on the previous page.

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.



Hymn of the Day: 370 What Child Is This?



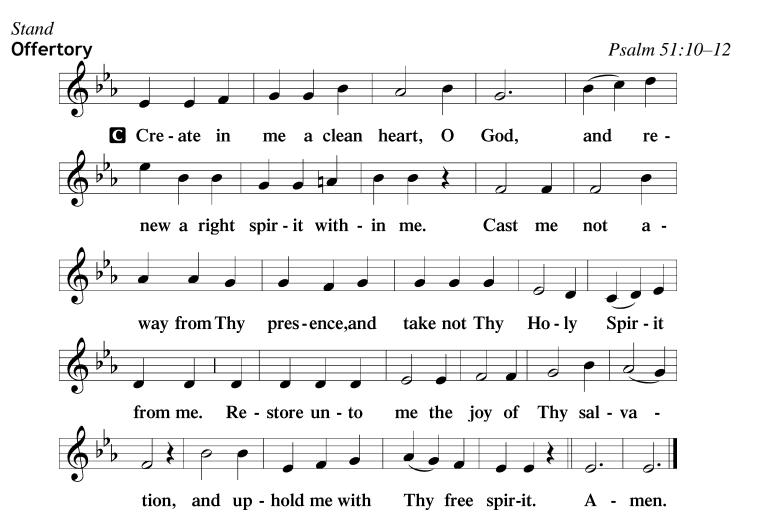
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

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

Voluntary: "Away in a Manger" Evangeline Vergin – vocals; Mandy Vergin - guitar



Prayer of the Church

P Let us now pray for the Lord's mercy upon His Church and upon all people as they have need.

Brief silence

- That the Lord would uplift our hearts in hope and joy to celebrate our Savior's birth, and that we would manifest this joy in witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- That we would show forth in our lives the One who is the Light of the world, and that the Lord would work through this witness of word and deed to enlighten all those who sit in darkness, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

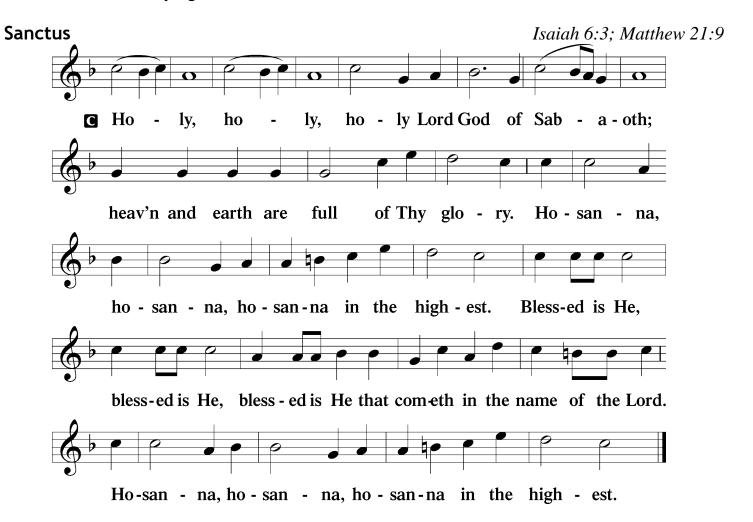
- That the Lord would bless His Church and sustain in faith all pastors who serve us with the Means of Grace, and that the Lord would bless all church workers and those preparing for His service in the various offices assigned to them, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P That the Lord would grant to us wise and faithful leaders in this nation, that the Lord would guide the leaders of all nations to work for peace and justice, and that we would be good and faithful citizens who seek always to do what is good and right and true, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- That the Lord would preserve those who are threatened by persecution for the sake of Christ, that the Lord would grant courage to those who struggle against oppression, and that the Lord would grant His comfort and peace to those who suffer violence and danger, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- That the Lord would grant healing, relief, comfort and peace to all the sick, to those who suffer, to the dying and to those who grieve <code>[especially_____]</code>. That the Lord would bless doctors, nurses, all medical professionals and caregivers in their service of aid and comfort; and that all would rejoice in the good news of Christ, our Light and our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- That the Lord would prosper the good work of the Church in bringing aid to those in need, relief in time of disaster, and resources to those who have lost home and livelihood, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P That the Lord would humble our hearts to repentance and give us faith to receive with joy and thanksgiving the precious gift of His body and blood, and that the Lord would grant to His Church unity of faith and harmony of life and practice, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- That the Lord would secure in our heart the joy of this holy season, that we would not give into anger, bitterness and dispute; and that we would rejoice in the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding in our homes, workplaces and the Church, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- That we would be faithful unto death and receive from the Lord's hand the crown of righteousness for having fought the good fight and finished the race, and that we would remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- We rejoice, O Lord, in the Word made flesh, in whom You have revealed Your glory and by whom You have delivered us from sin, darkness and death. Grant to us all things beneficial to us and prevent all things harmful, that we would be kept secure within the grasp of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore.
- C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament



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:



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

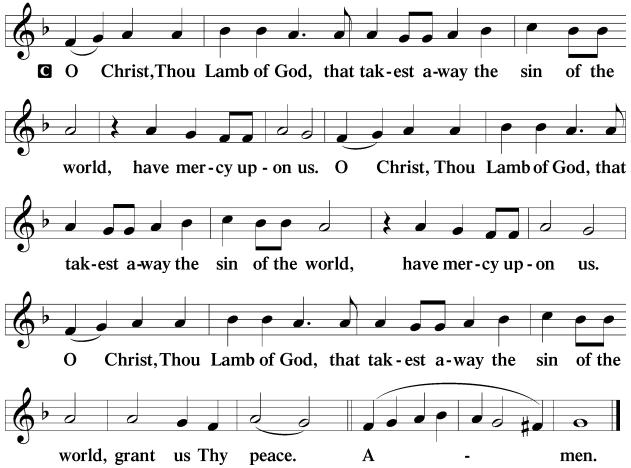
John 20:19



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



Agnus Dei John 1:29



Sit

Distribution

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

Pre-Distribution Voluntary: "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Mandy Vergin

Distribution Hymn: 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 All you, be neath your heav y load, By care and guilt bent low, 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,

From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold: And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow: When down in - to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



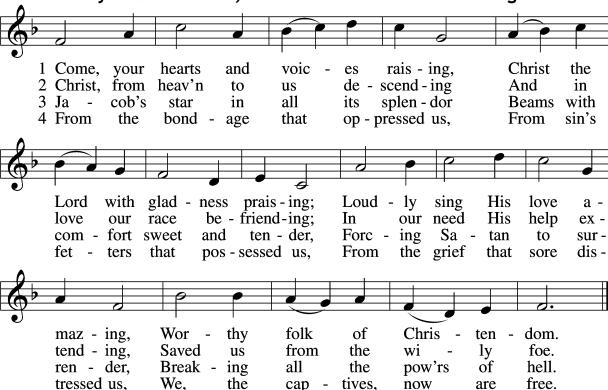
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king." A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing, Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing, His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing. And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing. The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing. And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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Distribution Hymn: 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

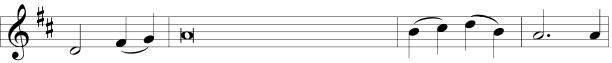


- 5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,
 And to You we come confessing
 That Your love has set us free.
- 6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us
 Till we join Your choir above.

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Tune: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis



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





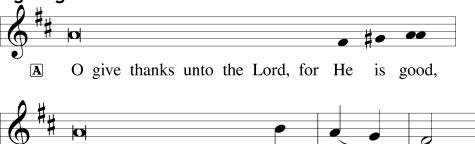








Thanksgiving Psalm 107:1



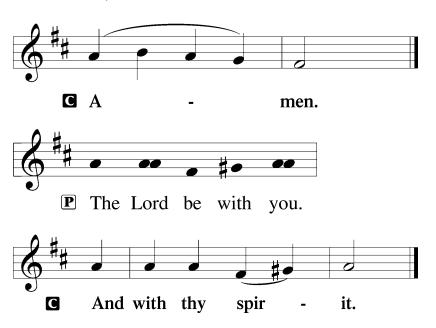
and His mercy endureth for

P Let us pray.

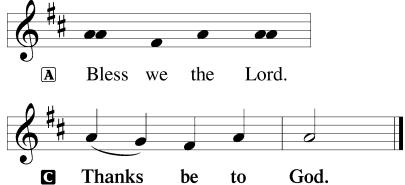
C

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.

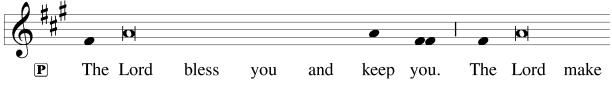
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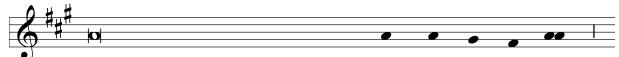


Benedicamus Psalm 103:1



Benediction Numbers 6:24–26





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



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and

→ give you peace.



Recessional Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

During the cross recession, the ancient and laudable custom is to **bow your head** in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.



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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte
Altar Guild
Sharon Williams & Julie Kosmalski
Elder on Duty
Tom LoCascio
Greeter(s)
Julie & Kari Kosmalski
Offering Counters
Usher
Video Technician
TBD
Sharon Williams & Julie Kosmalski
Tom LoCascio
Julie & Kari Kosmalski
Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Scott Miller
Darryl Swainson

CHILDREN'S HANDBELL CHOIR

Dante Hilton Nancy McInnis Gabriel Peters Evy Vergin Debbie LoCascio – Director

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Chris Gerard – Trumpet Mandy Vergin – Guitar Rob Wheeler – Organ

VOCALISTS

Mandy Vergin Evy Vergin