

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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**So also, when you see these  
things taking place, you know  
that the kingdom of God is near.  
Truly, I say to you, this  
generation will not pass away  
until all has taken place.**

— Luke 21:31-32

## **The Second Sunday of Advent**

6 December A $\times$ D 2020

*Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Second Sunday of Advent. On this day, as we continue through this penitential season, we consider the Second Coming of Christ, when our Lord Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. On this day, all unbelievers will receive the eternal punishment their sins deserve, while all who believe will inherit the Kingdom. Therefore, we urgently call the world to repentance, even as we eagerly await our own deliverance.

If you are a VISITOR here, we 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.

*PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the Sharing of the Peace that would normally take place at the beginning of the service has been temporarily suspended.*

## 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: 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

## Service of the Word

**Introit (spoken responsively)** *Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29*

- P** Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,  
and you shall have gladness of heart.**
- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- C** **Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Turn again, O God of hosts!  
Look down from heaven, and see.
- C** **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

**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.**

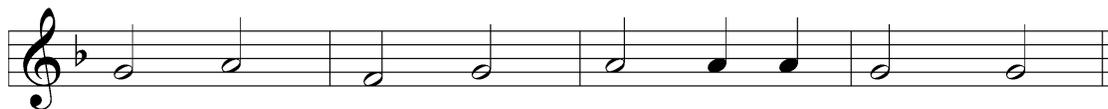
- P** Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,  
and you shall have gladness of heart.**

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*

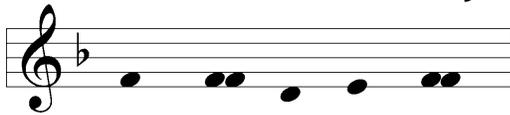


**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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 our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same 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

*Malachi 4:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 50:2-3a, 5*

**P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
Our God comes; he does not keep silence;

**C** “Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

## Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Stand Alleluia

LSB 190



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

## Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

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



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

<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

<sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**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.**

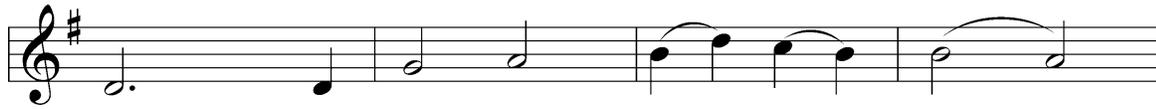
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for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

Sit

## Hymn of the Day: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him  
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion  
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;  
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,  
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.  
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

***NOTE REGARDING THE OFFERING*** – Offering plates are located at the sanctuary exit doors where you may leave your weekly offering as you depart today.

Stand  
Offertory

LSB 192



**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.

*Brief silence*

- P** For steadfastness in the Word of Christ, that ever mindful of His coming, we may live in harmony with one another and together glorify Him, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all congregations and ministers of the Church, especially Matthew, our Synod president; David, our district president; and Terry, our circuit visitor, that by them the Father would continually call sinners to repentance and comfort them with the healing of the Sun of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the Lord's gift of marriage, that He would preserve it against the ravages of sin, the schemes of the devil and the raging of the world; and for the couples and families of our congregation, that God would strengthen them in love for one another and establish them on the foundation of His Word, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For harmony, that God would defeat the plans of all who would stir up violence, destroy the weapons of those who delight in bloodshed, and, according to His will, end every conflict in our nation and our world, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Holy Spirit, that by God's Word, He would search our hearts to root out all evil that would lead to strife and discord so that we may be at peace with all people; and for zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring peace beyond understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those in need, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that the Lord would sustain them in their trials, bless them with faith through His Spirit, and deliver them according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who commune this day; for repentance and firm trust in Christ; for right discernment of His holy body in the Supper; and that God would fill us with joy and peace in believing so that, forgiven and abounding in hope, we may be able to stand with a clean conscience before His judgment throne, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**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

*LSB 195*



**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,



bles - 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*)

LSB 196

**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

LSB 197

**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

LSB 197



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



**G** A - men.

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 the inside front cover of this service folder regarding our practice of Holy Communion.*

#### ***Directions for Holy Communion:***

- *Ushers will release you in small groups to approach the altar*
- *Please wear a mask as you approach the altar and as you depart (masks may be removed at the communion rail)*
- *Please space yourselves out at the communion rail (households may remain together)*
- *Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth*
- *Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended*
- *When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups*
- *Hand sanitizer will be available on pedestals as you depart the Lord's Table*

## Distribution Hymn: 333 Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 3 Soon will come that hour \_\_\_\_\_ When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Tune and text: Public domain

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## Distribution Hymn: 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace

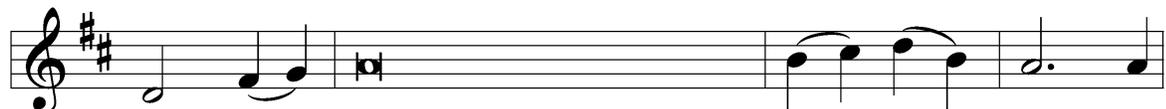


To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessèd hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

Stand  
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



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



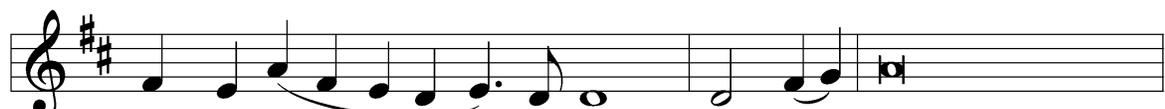
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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



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



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



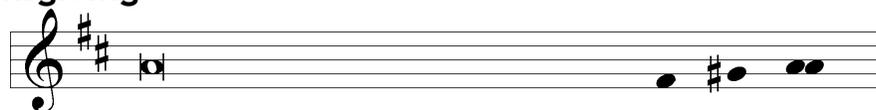
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



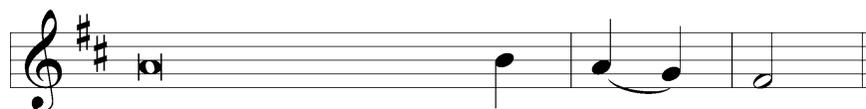
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



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



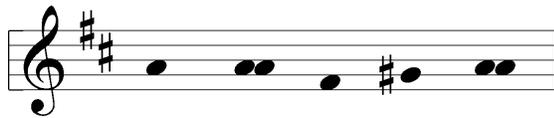
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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.



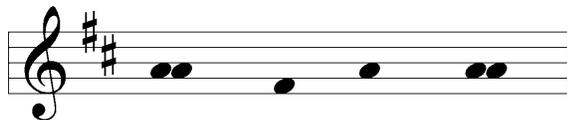
**P** The Lord be with you.



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

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202*



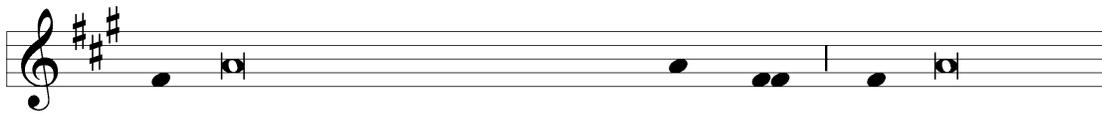
**A** Bless we the Lord.



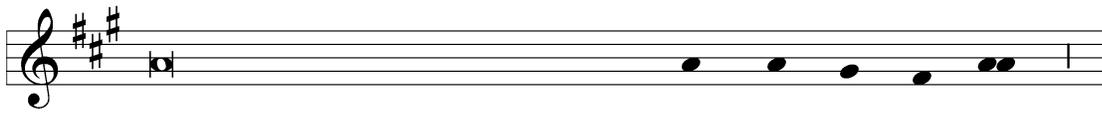
**C** Thanks be to God.

# Benediction

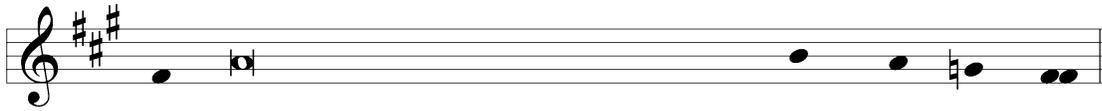
LSB 202



**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.

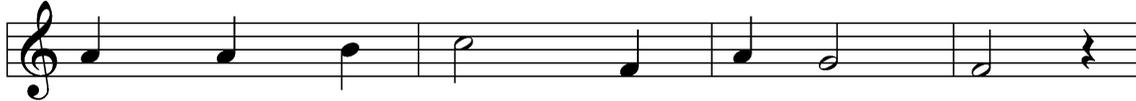


**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn: 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

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## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 12/6**    **Second Sunday in Advent**
- **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
  - **Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting** 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
  - **Decorate the Church** 2 p.m.
- Mon. 12/7**    **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 12/8**    **Pastor out of office in p.m.**  
**Board of Elders' Meeting** 7 p.m.
- Wed. 12/9**    **Midweek Advent Worship Service** 7 p.m.
- Sat. 12/12**    **Men's Bible Study** 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. 12/13**    **Third Sunday in Advent**
- **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1. Hand sanitizer will be distributed at the entryway, as well as before and after Communion.
2. We ask that people wear masks when moving about the building.
3. Certain pews will be closed to maintain spacing between congregants.
4. The "Sharing of the Peace," the passing of offering plates, and the common cup will be temporarily suspended.
5. Holy Communion will be distributed at the altar, but in smaller groups (the Pastor and elder will wear masks during distribution).

Please note that due to technology and time limitations, our online services will now be recorded **on Sundays**, so the services will not be available online until later Sunday afternoon or early the next week. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

**NOTE REGARDING OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERVICES:** During this time of COVID-19, some of our church members might feel it's better in their personal situations to wait a bit longer before returning to church. And we totally understand. Because of this, Pastor Vergin will continue to post an abbreviated version of our worship service online. Pastor is also available for private pastoral visits where Holy Communion will be given individually and COVID-19 safety precautions will be used (these can be held either at your home or at the church). Please call the church office if you would like to schedule a private visit with Pastor.

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING THIS MORNING – All members of St. Mark's, ages 18+, are encouraged to attend **this morning's** Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary directly following the late service. Items on the Agenda will include voting on the Election Slate and 2021 Budget, receiving an update on the split and sale of the two back lots, and various board and financial reports. As always, for safety's sake, attendees are asked to space themselves out in the pews and wear face masks.

LET'S DECORATE OUR CHURCH THIS AFTERNOON! We are seeking volunteers to help decorate St. Mark's for the Christmas holidays **later today starting at 2 p.m.** Many hands make for light work, so if you are available to help, please wear a face mask and join us!

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAYS - Our traditional Advent Midweek services continue this week **on Wednesday at 7 p.m.** We hope you will join us for this extra opportunity to receive the Lord's Holy Word during this penitential season!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS SATURDAY – Our Men's Bible Study had to be rescheduled to this **Saturday, December 12** from 9 – 10:30 a.m. All men are invited to attend! Breakfast will be served, as well. Bring your Bibles and a friend or two!

NOW ACCEPTING SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE LUTHERAN WITNESS – We are now accepting subscriptions to *The Lutheran Witness* (LW), the official periodical of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The LW is published 11 times per year and it provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, fosters personal growth in faith, and helps interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue of LW includes the *Michigan in Touch* supplement from our Michigan District LCMS offices in Ann Arbor. The subscription year runs from March 2021 through February 2022. Yearly subscriptions are \$11.60 each when ordered through St. Mark's. If you'd like to subscribe, please place your check, made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, into a pink flower envelope (found in the pew racks), write "LW Subscription" on the front of the envelope, and place it into our offering plate **no later than TODAY**. You will then receive your first copy of LW in February some time.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – We are now accepting donations to help purchase Christmas poinsettias that will be used to adorn the altar area for Christmas. Since our flower coordinator, Nancy Salo, has to order a set number of poinsettias anyway to fill the tree stands, monetary donations of ANY amount are welcome this year. We ask that all donations be turned in **no later than December 13**. See today's pink flower insert for instructions on how to donate. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY UPDATE – Due to COVID-19, the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford will only be accepting, and giving, store gift cards this year. Area churches will not be given a "Wish List" and shopping for families as in the past. Instead, if you'd like to help a needy family or two this Christmas, please provide a \$25 gift card from Meijer, Target or Walmart. This way, the recipients can purchase food, clothing or toys. Please place the gift cards in the box located on the table at the back of the sanctuary **by December 13**. Thank you for helping families in need! (St. Mark's Board of Human Care)

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES – This Christmas, due to COVID-19, St. Mark's will be offering two identical Christmas Eve worship services on **Thursday, December 24**--one at 4 p.m. and the other at 6 p.m. Our Christmas Day Divine Service on **Friday, December 25** will take place at the usual time, 10 a.m. We hope you will make plans now with your family to attend one or more of these special services as we remember, and celebrate, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

NEEDED: SUBSTITUTE SNOW PLOW DRIVERS FOR ST. MARK'S! We are now seeking back-up snow plowers for St. Mark's parking lot this winter. Please advise as to when you would be available to plow—daytime, evenings and/or weekends. Training will be provided! If you'd like to be part of St. Mark's snow plowing team, please contact Jim O'Brien at (248) 872-2922.

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

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 so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

REMINDER: Don't forget to periodically check out the BUDGET THERMOMETER located on the bulletin board outside of the church office to see how we're doing financially for 2020! Thanks SO MUCH to all of you for continuing to regularly provide your offerings to St. Mark's either by mailing in your contributions, or participating in our Kindrid online giving program.

*INVISIBLE DAD LUNCH PROGRAM AT KEITH ELEM.* – Although area schools will not be resuming in-person classes until sometime down the road, St. Mark’s will continue to receive coin donations to help support Keith Elementary’s “Invisible Dad” lunch program. This helpful program, started by a dad at Keith, keeps extra money in the school’s Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student’s personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can’t afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered only a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). A clear, glass jar is located on the table at the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit any spare change you might have in order to help support this program. When school starts up again, the contents of the jar will be brought to the principal’s office at Keith Elementary. Thanks in advance for your support!





## SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister	Rev. Aaron Vergin
Acolyte ( <i>either service</i> )	TBD
Altar Guild	Julie Kosmalski & Sharon Williams
Elder on Duty ( <i>both services</i> )	Tom LoCascio
Greeters ( <i>either service</i> )	Sharon Williams
Offering Counters ( <i>after late service</i> )	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Organist ( <i>both services</i> )	Rob Wheeler
Trumpeter ( <i>either service</i> )	Chris Gerard
Ushers ( <i>see right</i> )	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> – Tom Kaufman; <b>10 a.m.</b> – John Reardon
Video Technician ( <i>either service</i> )	John Sidelinker