

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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The Epiphany of our Lord (obs.)

5 January A.D. 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

† Welcome in the name of Jesus! †

Today we observe the Festival of the Epiphany our Lord. On this day, we remember the visit of the magi, whom God led by a star to Jesus in Bethlehem, that they might worship Him and offer Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Their visit is a testament to God's desire that all should come to Christ and be saved no matter how far away they might be. Therefore, we too come to Christ and worship Him with joy.

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.

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.**

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

Processional Hymn: LSB398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*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.*



1 Hail to the Lord's anoint-ed, Great Da-vid's great-er Son!
2 He comes with res-cue speed-y To those who suf-fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show-ers Up-on the fruit-ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be-fore Him And gold and in-cense bring;
5 O'er ev'-ry foe vic-to-rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap-point-ed, His reign on earth be-gun!
To help the poor and need-y And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow-ers, Spring in His path to birth.
All na-tions shall a-dore Him, His praise all peo-ple sing.
From age to age more glo-rious, All bless-ing and all-blest.



He comes to break op-pres-sion, To set the cap-tive free,
To give them songs for sigh-ing, Their dark-ness turn to light,
Be-fore Him on the moun-tains Shall peace, the her-ald, go;
To Him shall prayer un-ceas-ing And dai-ly vows as-cend;
The tide of time shall nev-er His cov-e-nant re-move;



To take a-way trans-gres-sion And rule in eq-ui-ty.
Whose souls, con-demned and dy-ing, Were pre-cious in His sight.
And righ-teous-ness in foun-tains From hill to val-ley flow.
His king-dom still in-creas-ing, A king-dom with-out end.
His name shall stand for-ev-er— That name to us is Love.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 72:1–2, 10–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

P Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

P Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

C May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!

P May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

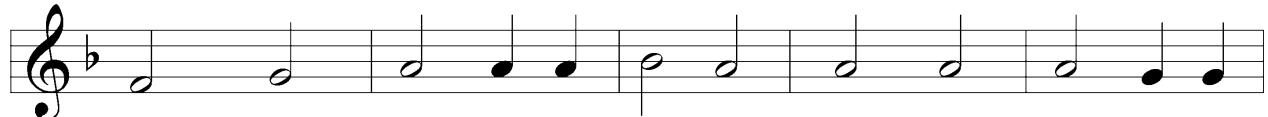
C May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!

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 Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

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

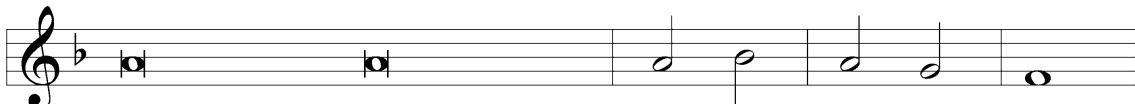
Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: C and on earth peace, good - will toward



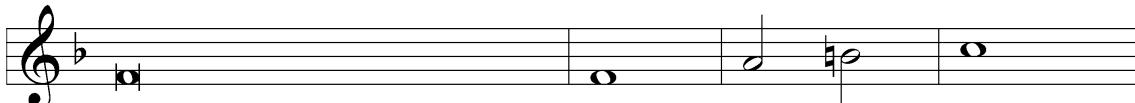
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



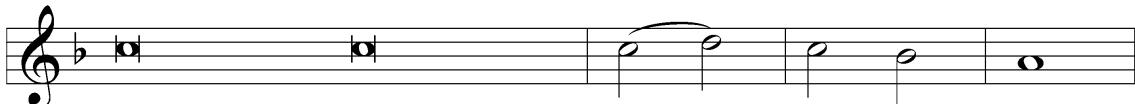
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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



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



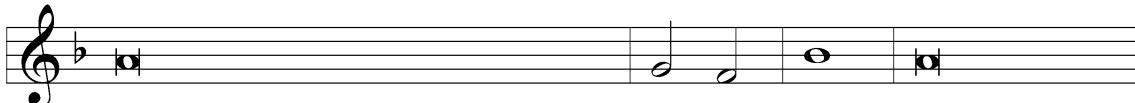
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



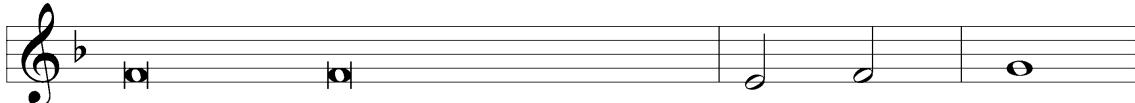
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



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.

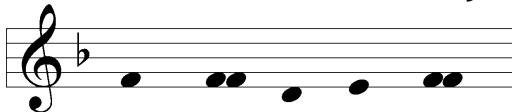


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

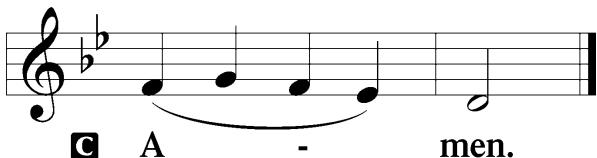


P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; 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

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Isaiah 60:6b, 1

P Those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

C Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

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

A musical staff in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. It consists of six measures of music followed by a double bar line. Below the staff, the lyrics "C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord." are written in a bold, sans-serif font.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

A musical staff in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. It consists of six measures of music followed by a double bar line. Below the staff, the lyrics "C Praise be to Thee, O Christ." are written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Gospel Recession

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

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with - in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when

own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - - cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!
 from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!

Of Ja - cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
 In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -
 Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him

ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
 here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.

Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic - to - rious,
 Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 Our voices gladly blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
 Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness! We are yearning
 For the day of Your returning!

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** Your light has dawned upon us, and we are drawn to Your light as a people of faith who trust Your mercy to answer the prayers of Your people with grace sufficient for all our needs.

Brief silence

From distant lands and far-off places, You have gathered to Yourself a people to bear Your name and to live in the light of Your Word. Bless Your Church, that we may be united in doctrine, live in harmony and peace, and work together that those still in darkness and death may be brought into the light of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Kings and rulers rise and fall, but Your Word endures forever. Give to all our elected and appointed leaders grace and wisdom sufficient for their task, that they may keep the sacred trust placed in them and serve the common good. Bless especially those who protect us at home and the servicemen and women who defend us throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Through Your Word, You have made known the mystery of Christ and granted redemption to all people through Baptism and faith. Guide those who preach and teach Your Word to us, and give them a loving heart to shepherd Your people faithfully. Bless all church workers and those now preparing for Your service. Bless also the seminaries and colleges of our Synod and those we support throughout the world. Inspire all your people to declare Your praises and to proclaim Christ with joy in the darkness of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P By Your mercy, we are preserved in time of trouble and sustained in illness, even to death. Bless the sick and those troubled in mind and heart, and grant them healing according to Your will. Encourage the grieving with hope, and comfort the dying in their last hours. [*Especially do we pray for _____.*] Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You have supplied Your people with many resources to support the work of Your Church. Grant to the missionaries and those planting congregations here and throughout the world all things needful, that Your saving purpose in Christ may be realized and Your Word may bring many into the fellowship of Your Church. Accept, we pray, the tithes and offerings we bring, that through these treasures Your work may not be hindered by any lack or need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gathered before the mystery of Christ's presence at his altar, we pray You to prepare us to receive in faith His body and blood under bread and wine. By this communion, equip us with every gift and grace, that we may fulfill our baptismal vocation as Your people and be kept safely to the day when at last we join You in the heavenly banquet that has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy Lord, mighty God, You have shown to us the face of Your mercy in Your Son, through whom those of all nations may find unity and life. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant all that is needful to us and to those for whom we have prayed, that trusting in Your mercy our hearts may find perfect peace and rest in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

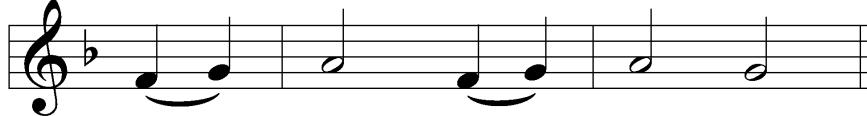
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1 Psalm 136



P The Lord be with you.



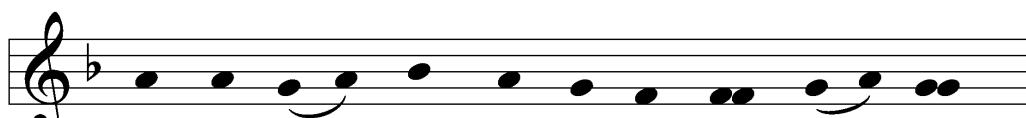
C And with thy spir - it.



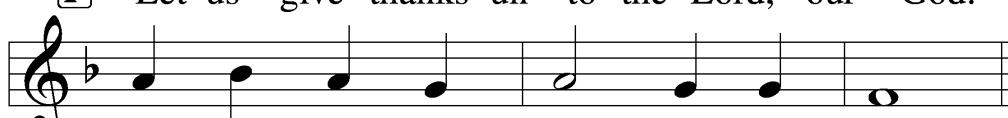
P Lift up your hearts.



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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

Matthew 6:9–13

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

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

The Words of Our Lord

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My $\text{\tfrac{X}{\square}}$ 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 $\text{\tfrac{X}{\square}}$ 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

Musical notation for Pax Domini, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

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

Musical notation for Pax Domini, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, Treble clef, B-flat key signature, quarter note time.

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 872 Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star



1 Come, Thou bright and Morn - ing Star, Light of Light with -
2 Let Thy grace, like morn - ing dew Fall - ing soft on
3 May Thy fer - vent love de - stroy Our cold works, in
4 Ah! Thou Day - spring from on high, Grant that at Thy
5 Light us to those heav'n - ly spheres, Sun of grace, in



out be - gin - ning; Shine up - on us from a - far
bar - ren plac - es, Com - fort, quick - en, and re - new
us a - wak - ing Ar - dent zeal and ho - ly joy
next ap - pear - ing We who in the graves do lie
glo - ry shroud - ed; Lead us through this vale of tears



That we may be kept from sin - ning.
Our dry souls and dy - ing grac - es;
At the pur - ple morn's first break - ing.
May a - rise, Thy sum - mons hear - ing,
To the land where days un - cloud - ed,



Drive a - way by Thy clear light Our dark - night.
Bless Thy flock from Thy rich store Ev - er - more.
Let us tru - ly rise ere yet Life has set.
And re - joice in our new life, Far from strife.
Pur - est joy, and per - fect peace Nev - er cease.

Tune and text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with

those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'lers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to

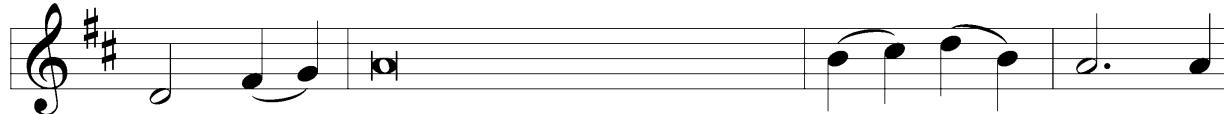
hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



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 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.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.

A-men, a-men, a - men.

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

Closing Hymn with Cross Recession: 397 As with Gladness Men of Old

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



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/5 The Epiphany of our Lord (observed)**
- **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
- Mon. 1/6 The Epiphany of our Lord**
Pastor's Day Off
- Tue. 1/7 Pastor Vergin out of office in the p.m.**
Board of Elders' Meeting 7 p.m., Library
- Wed. 1/8 Confirmation Class A** 4 p.m., Library
- Fri. 1/10 Confirmation Class B** 4 p.m., Library
- Sun. 1/12 First Sunday after Epiphany**
- **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 Vergin in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 a.m. this morning for Bible Study. He will continue teaching on the book of Joshua. The book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament and picks up after the death of Moses, when the people of Israel have at last come to the border of the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The book recounts the various battles of the people of God, beginning with the fall of Jericho, as they conquer the land of Canaan, in fulfillment of God's gracious promise to Abraham that His offspring would inherit the land. So please come! This book has much to teach us about the ways of God in Christ and how He now works through His Church to overthrow the kingdom of Satan by the preaching of the Gospel, so that His people might at last inherit the true Promised Land of heaven. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – All kids in grades Preschool through 5th are invited to attend our Children's Sunday School class today at 10:45 a.m. in the Library. Here, children will join with others to learn the stories of the faith and the Truth of Christ in a fun and age-appropriate setting. Please consider getting your children or grandchildren involved in this program! We'd love to have them there!

SEEKING ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS FOR 2020 – St. Mark’s doesn’t have a budgeted line item for altar flowers, and so we depend on the generosity of our congregation’s members and friends in order to have two beautiful vases of flowers sitting on the altar each Sunday. Could you possibly help with this? Each vase costs \$20. If you’d like to sponsor a vase (or two) for one Sunday or more, it would be greatly appreciated! Vases of flowers may be sponsored in honor, or in memory, of a loved one, or just to help beautify the altar. If interested, just write your name alongside the date you wish to sponsor on the purple Altar Flower sign-up sheet (located on the bulletin board at the top of the basement stairs). Write the name of the person you are honoring or remembering next to your name on the same line. Then, when that particular Sunday comes (or before, if you’d like), you may insert a check (made payable to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church) or cash into a pink flower envelope (found in the pew racks), write the date you’re sponsoring flowers and who they are in honor of on the envelope, and place it in an offering plate. Thanks so much in advance for supporting St. Mark’s Altar Flower Fund!

INSTALLATION OF 2020 SERVANTS – During an upcoming 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. We did have the date of January 26 selected for this blessing, however, the date might have to be changed to February 1, so watch future bulletins to see when an exact date is finally settled on.

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS WORKSHOP - The *Every One His Witness* Workshop that had been tentatively scheduled for some time in January has now been rescheduled for February (date to be determined soon). This program was developed by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its purpose is to train us—as both pastors and laypeople—to share the Gospel with others in our daily vocations. We already held this program at St. Mark’s once in 2019, and those who attended will surely tell you just how valuable and helpful it was! So if you haven’t gone through it before, please consider signing up to attend once a February date is chosen! The program will take the form of an all-day workshop (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) led by Pastor Vergin and lunch will be provided to all participants. Watch future bulletins and newsletters for more details!

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.

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SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

Sophie Hurley

Altar Guild

Barb Allen

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Sharon Williams

Offering Counters

Mary Ann Lockwood & Jean Swainson

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

John Reardon & John Sidelinker

Video Technician

Tom LoCascio