

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday in Advent

(Rorate Coeli)

22 December A \mathfrak{Z} D 2019

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent. On this day, we reach the end of the penitential season of Advent and look with joy to Jesus' birth at Christmas. Today we remember that Jesus is indeed the Prophet promised long ago, to whom we should listen, and the One whose sandal even John the Baptist was not worthy to untie. His coming is at hand, so we have no need to be anxious but can lift up our hearts every day in 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.

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

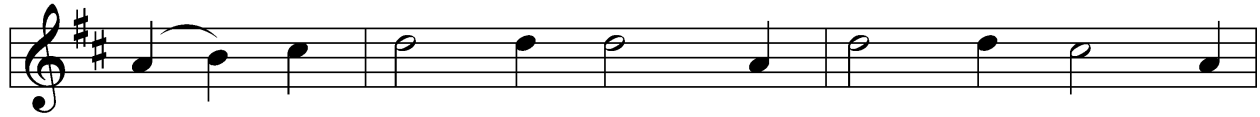
Sharing of the Peace

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."

Hymn of Invocation: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a

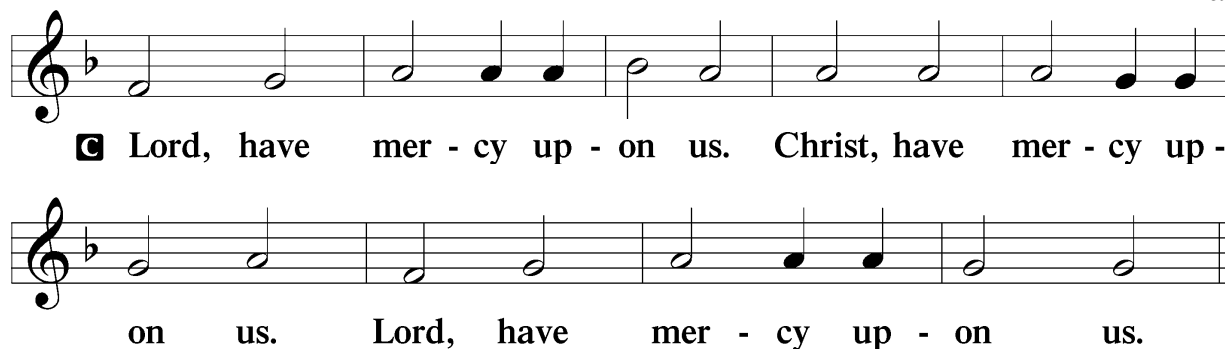
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- C** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them both to sprout.
- P** The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- C** Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of
The world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- P** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- C** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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** Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- C** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them both to sprout.

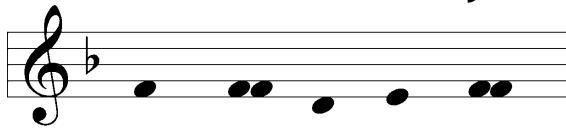
Kyrie

Mark 10:47

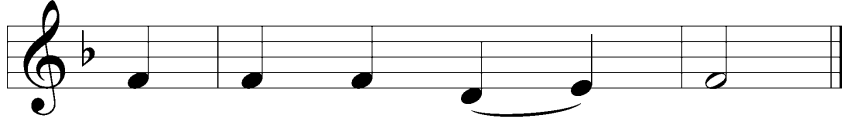


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 145:18, 21

P The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

C My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

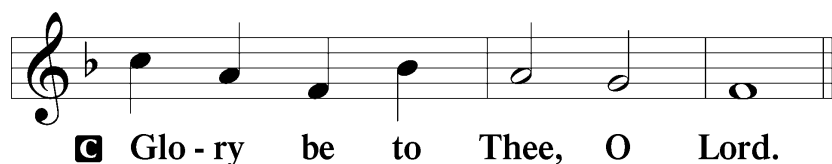
Stand
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

John 1:19–28

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



¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Refrain
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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.

Rite of Confirmation - Candidate: Kim Olsen

Prayer of the Church

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

Brief silence

- P** Heavenly Father, as we conclude this Advent season, keep our hearts and minds focused on Your Incarnate Son, who continues to dwell among us through His Holy Word and Sacraments; and guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we might remain

steadfast in the faith until His coming on the clouds in glory on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of faithfulness, we rejoice that You fulfilled Your promise to send the Messiah. Grant that Your people may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word, singing Your praises and receiving His Holy Supper. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of truth, as John the Baptist served as the voice crying out in the wilderness, so also pastors continue to preach Your Word of truth in the wilderness of this fallen world. We give You thanks for the men You have raised up for this holy task. Bless them and their labors, and continue to send workers into Your vineyard, that there may be a bountiful harvest. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of justice, You establish earthly government and teach us to obey those who rule over us. Send Your blessing upon all who make, administer and judge our laws, that Your people may serve You in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of mercy, we are thankful for all those whose vocations call them to care for us in our time of need, including law officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, doctors and nurses. Keep them in Your providential care, and bless them in their duties. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of compassion, You teach us to make our requests known to You so that we are not anxious about anything. Send Your healing hand upon the sick and the suffering [*including _____*]. Grant that Your peace will guard them in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God with us, in the blessed Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Grant that all who come to Your altar this day do so in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of their sins and the confidence of their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



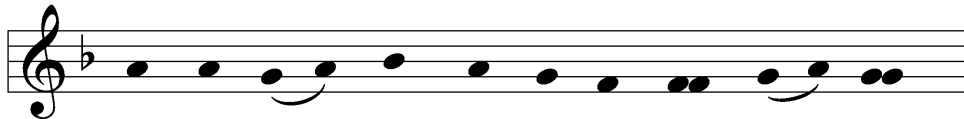
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



C It is meet and right so to do.

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

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



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



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



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



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

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

Matthew 6:9–13

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

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

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ 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.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



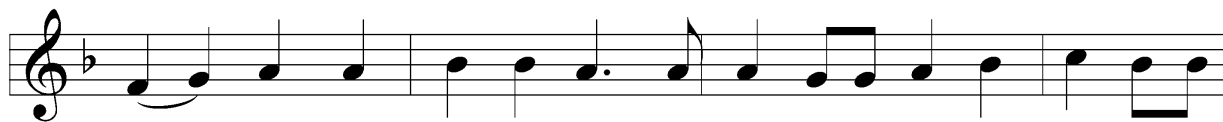
C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



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 Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re - pen-tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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Distribution Hymn: 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;

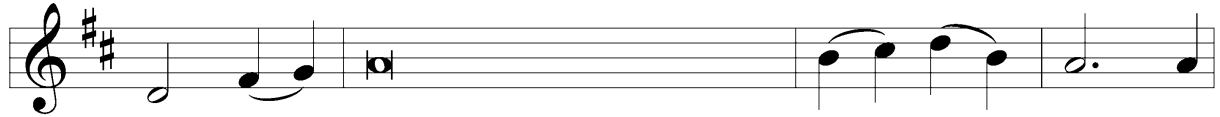


The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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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



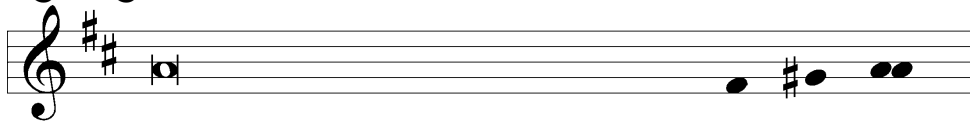
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



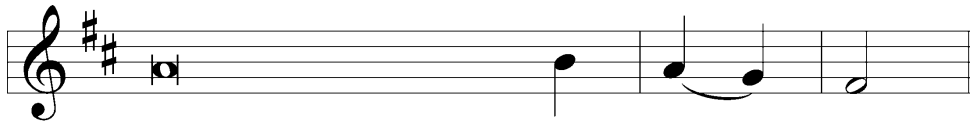
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



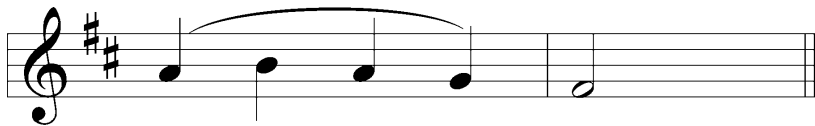
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



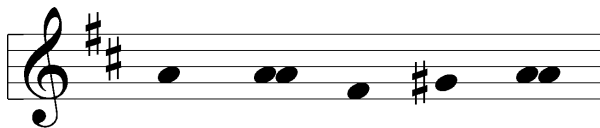
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



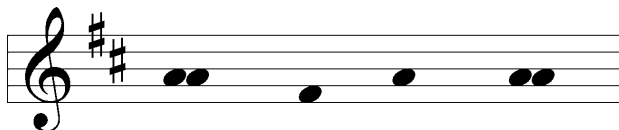
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



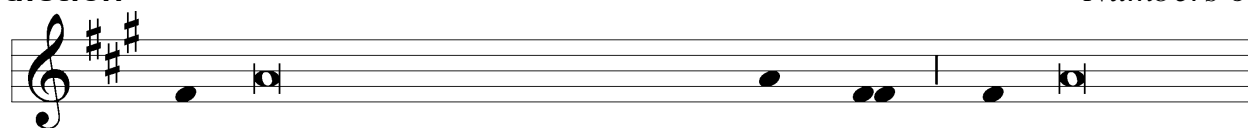
A Bless we the Lord.



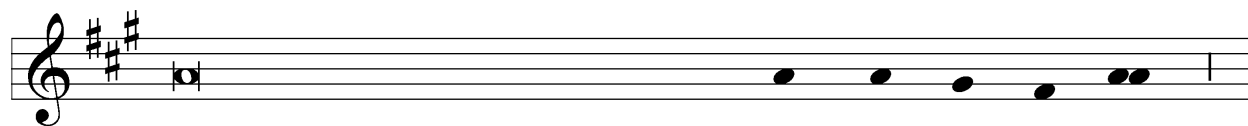
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

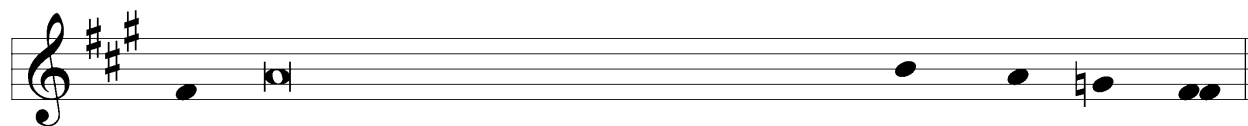
Numbers 6:24–26



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



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

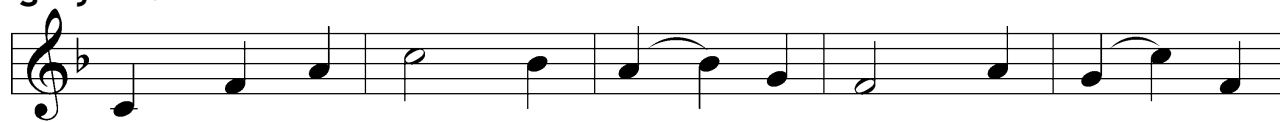


The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

Closing Hymn: 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 12/22 The Fourth Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **Youth Bell Practice** 10:45 - 11 a.m., Choir Loft
- **Special Voters' Meeting** 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)

Mon. 12/23 Adult Handbell Practice 7:30 p.m., Choir Loft

Tue. 12/24 Newsletter Distribution

Church Office open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pastor out of office in p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service 6 p.m.

Wed. 12/25 Christmas Day Divine Service 10 a.m.

Church office closed

Thu. 12/26 Church office closed

Pastor Vergin out of town

Fri. 12/27 Church office closed

Pastor Vergin out of town

Sun. 12/29 The First Sunday after Christmas

Pastor Vergin out of town (Rev. Dr. Frank Pies will be presiding minister)

- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
- **No Sunday School today**
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S YOUTH HANDBELL PRACTICE – This morning's youth handbell practice will take place directly after the Divine Service from 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Youth Room behind the Choir Loft. Please note that it will be a shortened practice due to today's Voters' Meeting at 11 a.m. **Also, all youth who will be playing bells during our Christmas Eve service should arrive at church on Christmas Eve by 5:15 p.m.** Thank you.

ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICE – The final adult handbell practice before Christmas Eve will take place **tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m.** All adult ringers should plan to be at church by 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve for a warm-up and final rehearsal. Thank you!

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING TODAY – St. Mark's President, Tom LoCascio, has called a Special Voters' Meeting for today that will start at 11 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the latest developments in the merger research between St. Mark's and Peace Lutheran Church. All members ages 18+ are strongly encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES THIS WEEK – Bring your friends! Bring your family! Bring your neighbors and co-workers! We invite one and all to attend our Christmas worship services this week! Our Christmas Eve service will take place this **Tuesday, December 24** at 6 p.m. and will include some of your favorite Christmas hymns, youth and adult handbell choirs, and the candlelight version of Silent Night at the end of the service. Our Christmas Day Divine Service will take place this **Wednesday, December 25** at 10 a.m. and will feature more of your favorite Christmas hymns, youth handbells, and some additional special music. The Sunday after Christmas Pastor Vergin will be out of town, and we will be blessed with the preaching and teaching of our wonderful brother in Christ, the Reverend Doctor Frank Pies, Emeritus pastor at Our Savior Lutheran, Hartland. We hope to see you at all of our Christmas services this year!

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

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

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

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.**

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.

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.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

Grace Hurley

Altar Guild

Sharon Williams & Julie Kosmalski

Elder on Duty

Jim O'Brien

Greeter(s)

Cindy Parks

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

Scott Miller

Video Technician

Tom LoCascio