

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2020



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Day

December 25, 2020

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness through Jesus.

Explore our website! You'll find materials for:

- Worship
- Bible Studies
- Devotions
- Children's Sunday School

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PARTICIPATION IN THE LORD'S SUPPER: St. Mark's celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month. The Bible teaches us that the Lord's Supper is a statement of God's grace and forgiveness to us, *and* a statement of our "oneness" or complete unity of faith with one another (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). *For this reason, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have previously expressed their oneness with us through membership at St. Mark's or membership in another congregation in our church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).* If you haven't had the opportunity to fully learn what we believe and teach at St. Mark's but you would like to join us for the Lord's Supper in the future, please speak to one of the pastors after today's service or at another time. They would be happy to meet with you and to work toward a common confession of faith with you so that you can join us for the Lord's Supper in the near future.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: The day is here. Today we celebrate the day the Word became flesh. The Lord put his love, power, and grace on display for the world that first Christmas. Let your voice ring out gladly today as we praise him for sending the exact Savior we needed—both God and man. Praise to the Son of God and son of Mary!

PRELUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Zach Unke

CHOIR

Westminster Carol
Carl J. Nygard, Jr.

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds why this jubilee, why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire this heav'nly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship #55
verses 1,2,4

1. **Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

Refrain:

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2. **God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.**

Refrain

continued...

4. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.**

Refrain:

**Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

from various passages of Scripture

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD.

C: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

M: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things.

M: The LORD has made his salvation known

C: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

M: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

*Christian Worship #34
verses 1,2*

1. **Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**
2. **Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.**

Refrain

- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

- 3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." ⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."



1. **Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**
3. **This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**
4. **Let the heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶ There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



HYMN

What Child Is This *Christian Worship #67*

1. **What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**
2. **Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**
3. **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

SERMON

John 1:1-14

Who Was Born That Day?



HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Christian Worship #61
verses 1,2*

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

2. **Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!**

Refrain

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be placed in the basket on the table, or you can mail your thank offering to the church. You can also give online through our website under the “Resources” tab.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(The presiding minister will speak the prayer on behalf of the congregation.)

LORD’S PRAYER

- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**



THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Christian Worship #56

1. **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place—Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his favor.**
2. **Angels sang about his birth; Wise men sought and found him.
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, Glory all around them.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ringing.**
3. **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Christian Worship #65

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

continued...

2. **For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.**
3. **How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.**
4. **O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. Praise be to Immanuel, the Word made flesh, the Son of David, the Prince of Peace. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World
Christian Worship #62

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
2. **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

continued...

3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

4. **He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
Zach Unke

*Gloria
in excelsis
Deo*

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