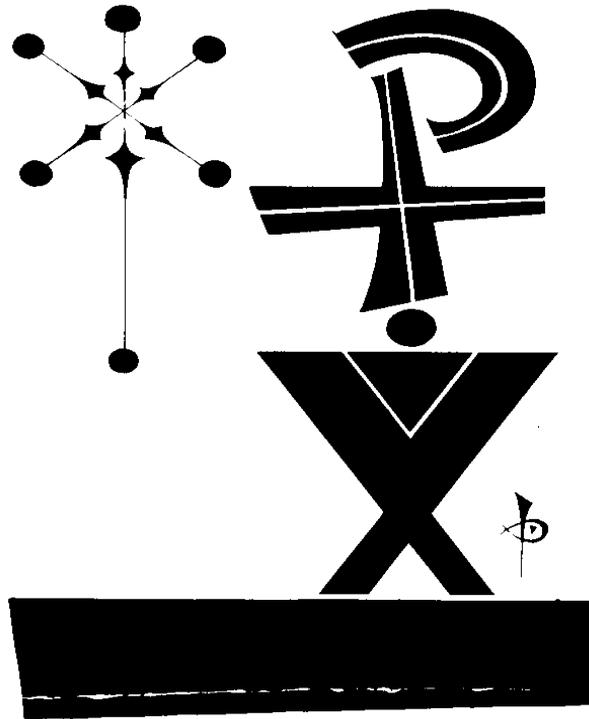


CELEBRATING THE PROMISES OF GOD

December 27, 2020



**GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

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

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

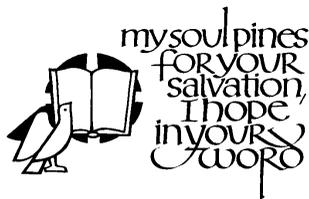
May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

We do have LARGE PRINT copies of the Bulletin, you will find them on the table with the Bulletins;

Personal hearing assistance devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. We ask that only WELS & ELS members partake of the Sacrament. Our Pastors are willing to speak to why this is the case, please contact one of them.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksch; follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: Gathering together seems to have become a ‘dirty’ word in the past year; however, that is exactly what we are to and need to do when it comes to the Word of God. Maybe we cannot gather in person together, yet we can still gather around the Word . . . and we are not alone in such a gathering as countless people make the time to gather regularly at the feet of our Lord by way of His Word . . . in person safely or online. God bless your gathering around His Word.

PRELUDE

Studies in Old English Christmas Folk Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

OPENING HYMN

In Christ Alone

Sing, intro

Christian Worship Supplement # 752

**In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My
Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.**

Minister: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen. Praise be to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God for His mercy and forgiveness.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

Sing, intro

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christian Worship # 61

**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!”

**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***

**Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory;

C: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Psalm 119 and James 1

M: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

C: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

M: Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

C: Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

M: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

C: Preserve my life according to your word.

M: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for human anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

C: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:20-25

There is no one or nothing like the God of the Bible. Note what makes Him stand apart from the pseudo gods this world comes up with.

²⁰“Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. ²¹Declare what is to be, present it— let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. ²²“Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. ²³By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. ²⁴They will say of me, ‘In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. ²⁵ But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the Lord and will make their boast in him.

HYMN

Sing, intro

Let All Together Praise Our God

Christian Worship # 41

**Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav’n again And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.**

**He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.**

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

Look again at what God has for you, and what He expects of you. Stay connected to the Word.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HYMN

Sing, intro

Let All Together Praise Our God

Christian Worship # 41

**A wondrous change which he does make: He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.**

**He serves that I a lord may be—A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?**

**For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.**

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:25-40

God keeps His promises. Connect the various promises coming together in this Reading. Praise God!

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." ³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Sing, intro

Peace Came to Earth

Christian Worship Supplement # 707

**Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might—
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!**

**And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—
Who could but sigh: Immanuel! Who could but shout: Immanuel!**

**You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again—
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!**

**How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!**

SERMON

Based on Luke 2:25-40

“Gather At The Lord’s House”

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the basket on the table, mail your thank offering to the

church, or give online through our website under the “Resources” tab. The QR Code to the giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: In this holy season of Christmas, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard today.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: A Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

Sing, intro

The Lord Is My Light

Christian Worship Supplement # 767

Refrain

*The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?*

**There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in his house forever,
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord All the days of my life. *Refrain***

**Do not hide your face, O Lord. Ev'ry day I will seek your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me, The Lord will receive me. *Refrain***

**Teach me, Lord, and keep me on your paths; Guide me, Lord, along a level way. I will gaze
on the goodness of the Lord In the land of all the living. *Refrain***

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN

Sing, intro

Joy to the World

Christian Worship # 62

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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

Carol of the Bells

M. Leontovitch

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- **Order of Service:** "The common Service" from *Christian Worship*, Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Music from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, revised by James Engel.
- **Scripture Quotations:** From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984; 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

What distinguishes the God of the Bible from the gods this world has come up with? Make the case then that there is none like Him. See John 1:1-14

If you are the employer, would you hire yourself to be an employee? Think over the expectations God has for His chosen people (you). How can we attempt to put such into practice? See Ephesians 6:10-18

Despite hardships why can a person still be at peace? What is that peace Simeon and Anna had going for them? See Philippians 4:4-9 and Hebrews 10:23-25

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Marty Puckett

Violin/Cello: Vince Beiderbecke Percussion: Don Black

Altar Flowers: Flowers beautifying the altar have been placed by Worship Arts Committee

Children's Sunday School—Study at Home Sunday School

Christmas and New Year's Break

Here's the online link if you need: <https://online.nph.net/ss-at-home>

Adult & Teen Bible Studies

- **Book of Ephesians:** Led by Pastor Kolander, 9:15-10:00 am (online only)
- **Teen Class:** Led by Noel Ledermann via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:

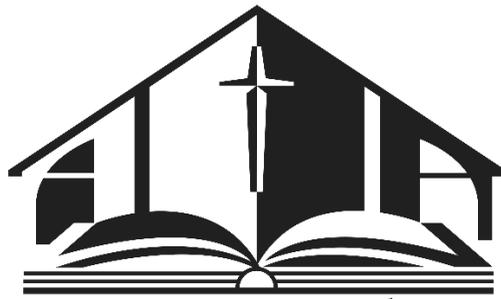


THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

Today	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Live Streamed)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study (Online)
	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service
Thursday	5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Meeting (Non-SMLS)
Next Sunday		Communion & Mission Box Offering
	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Live Streamed)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study (Online)
	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	Jesus Cares Worship
	5:00 p.m.	20's/30's Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Susan Kroner	<i>Dec 27</i>	
Hal Tritch		
Helen Bishop	<i>Dec 28</i>	
Evret Miller	<i>Dec 29</i>	
	<i>Dec 30</i>	Chuck and Kathy Edwards
Betty Arney	<i>Jan 1</i>	
Jason Hioco		
	<i>Jan 2</i>	Larry and Julie Dushane



St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

7869 Kingswood Drive
Citrus Heights, California 95610

Phone: (916) 961-7891 Fax: (916) 961-5034

Website: www.StMarksLutheran.com
St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: stmarks7869

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:30 a.m. (outdoor)

Children's Sunday School Study from Home

Adult & Teen Sunday Bible Classes from 9:15 (online)

Monday Evening Service on hold

Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:30 a.m.

Jonathan Kolander	Pastor
Brock Groth	Pastor
Darren Vogt	Principal, Grades 6-8
Hannah Stegman	Grades 3-5
Rosemarie Boushek	Grades 1-2
Judy Thrans	Kindergarten
Greg Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8
Lisa Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8
Ruth Vogt	Art
Dena Oswald	Ext. School Day Care

Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel