



# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 3, 2021

## 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

### Follow us to stay connected:

- Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksch](https://facebook.com/stmarksch)
- Follow us on Instagram: [instagram.com/stmarkslutheran](https://instagram.com/stmarkslutheran)
- Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: [vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch](https://vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch)

- ❖ **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 our 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 world was in darkness. Then Jesus came and brought light! But he didn't just bring light to the people of Israel—he brought light to the whole world. Today is the day each year we celebrate that fact. Epiphany means to “shine light” or “reveal,” and this day is especially important for us Gentiles because we celebrate how God has brought us into unity with his people and has made us a part of Israel, too. How? He has revealed the mystery of Christ's glory...to all people.

## PRELUDE

## OPENING HYMN

## Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Christian Worship #80*

1. **Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story;  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Refrain:*

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

2. **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing—  
Yonder shines the infant light.**

*Refrain*

3. **Magi, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar.  
Seek the great desire of nations;  
You have seen the Savior's star.**

*Refrain*

4. **Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear.**

*Refrain*

**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.**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

**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.**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; 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

**Ruth 4:13-17**

*The light of Christ shines for all people, as we see in the fact that David's great grandmother (and therefore an ancestor of Christ himself) was a Gentile.*

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

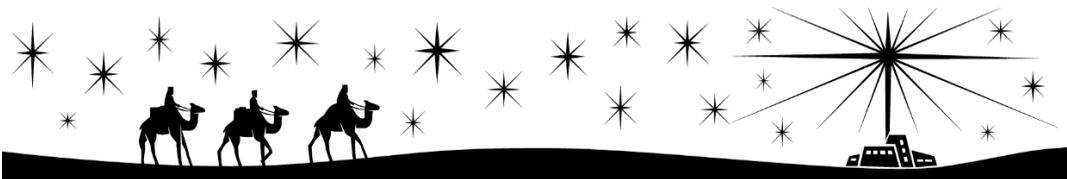
### SECOND LESSON

**Ephesians 3:2-12**

*The light of Christ shines for all people, and its message is revealed to Israel and Gentiles alike.*

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*The light of Christ shines for all people, as God reveals through his guidance of the wisemen.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**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?**

- 1. 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***
- 2. 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***
- 3. 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***

**“Where Is the One Born King of the Jews?”**

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**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**

*(The presiding minister will speak the Prayer of the Church.)*

### **THE 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.**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

### **PREFACE**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### **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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  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 OF THE SACRAMENT**

## **HYMN**

## **The People that in Darkness Sat**

*Christian Worship #90*

1. **The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shone on them who long  
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.**
2. **To us a child of hope is born,  
To us a son is giv'n,  
And on his shoulders ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**
3. **His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.**
4. **His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.**
5. **Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us yours alone,  
For you are with the Father and  
The Spirit ever one, The Spirit ever one.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*(10:30 am)*

## **The People that in Darkness Sat**

*Christian Worship #569*

1. **O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear your voice And in your fold with us rejoice.**
2. **Fill with the radiance of your grace The souls now lost in error's maze  
And all whom in their secret minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**
3. **Oh, gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav'nly rest.**
4. **Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart**
5. **That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to you be giv'n By all your Church in earth and heav'n.**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### THANK THE LORD *(musical introduction)*



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

## CLOSING HYMN

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Christian Worship Supplement #771*

1. **I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain:*

**In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2. **I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path And show me the way to the Father.**

*Refrain*

3. **I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

*Refrain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE



# TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

## Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Brock Groth

Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

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

## Children's Sunday School—Study at Home Sunday School

*Gideon's Victory: Joshua 7*

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:*



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**Scripture Quotations:** From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

### Weekly Calendar

Today		Communion Mission Box Offering 8:00 a.m. Worship Service (Live Streaming) 9:15 a.m. Bible Study (Online) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion (Outdoor) 5:00 p.m. 20's/30's Bible Study
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Board of Child Discipleship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	JOL Bible Study
	4:30 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
	6:30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Live Streaming)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study (Online)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Outdoor)

<i><b>Birthdays</b></i>		<i><b>Anniversaries</b></i>
Susan Trout	<i>Jan 3</i>	
Donna Williamson		
Charisa Allan	<i>Jan 4</i>	David & Cheryl Skultety
Hannah Rausch	<i>Jan 6</i>	
Bruce Bartlow	<i>Jan 7</i>	
Sherry Wiese		
Vera Smith	<i>Jan 9</i>	
Toby James Beine	<i>Jan 10</i>	
Katelynn Hopping		







# St. Mark's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Citrus Heights, California 95610

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

Website: [www.StMarksLutheran.com](http://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 until further notice

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**