

CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

November 28, 2021



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

1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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:

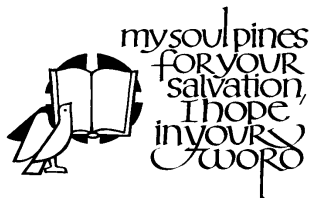
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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

Hymns from 'Christian Worship' are in the 'red' book / 'Christian Worship Supplement' in the 'blue'

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. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



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: Do you have those moments when something begins to make sense and it brings a smile to your face? The church Season of Advent can be like that, providing multiple moments which can help make sense of this life and why it is a smart move to prepare for life after this one. God gives us what we need to prepare and be prepared. It is in our best interest to not ignore the Advent moments He puts before us today. May the enlightenment He gives put a smile on your face.

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations

Douglas E. Wagner

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

Congregation: His love endures forever.

M: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

C: Amen. Let us worship Him.

OPENING HYMN

Musical Introduction

Not unto Us

Christian Worship # 392

**Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to your name be praise;
Not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**Amazing grace—that chose us e'er the worlds were made;
Amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
Amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

**Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**

M: What does God tell us about ourselves in his holy Word?

C: He says that we are sinners and deserve only his punishment.

M: When we realize that we have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should we do?

C: We will confess before God all our sins, those which we remember as well as those of which we are unaware. We pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

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: Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

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.

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

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Let All the People Praise You # 164

**Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee; Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forrest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.**

M: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins;

C: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29

If you hesitate, you lose. Thankfully God intervenes so we don't have to lose.

¹⁵ With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." ¹⁶ When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. ¹⁷ As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" ²³ By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. ²⁶ But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. ²⁷ Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸ He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. ²⁹ So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. *TWOTL*

HYMN

Musical Introduction

How Precious Is the Book Divine

Christian Worship # 284

**How precious is the Book divine, By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.**

**Its light, descending from above Our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays a Savior's boundless love And brings his glories near.**

**It shows to us our wand'ring ways And where our feet have trod
But brings to view the matchless grace Of a forgiving God.**

**This lamp through all the dreary night Of life shall guide our way
Till we behold the clearer light Of an eternal day.**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Being blameless is the goal. Is that how Jesus will find you when He returns?

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. *TWOTL*

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Romans 11

M: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

C: Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

M: Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?

**C: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!
Amen.**

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

Always watch and pray for this life as we know it is going away.

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will

never pass away. ³⁴“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Musical Introduction

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Christian Worship # 18

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.**

**Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!**

**Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.**

**Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.**

**He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29

“An Advent Moment ... Don't Ignore God's Mercy”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – Based on the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed

All: 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.

M: What are we meaning to say with these words?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

M: He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

M: This is most certainly true.

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: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Christian Worship Supplement# 756

**We walk by faith and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe him near.**

**We may not touch his hands and side Nor follow where he trod,
But in his promise we rejoice And cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near And seek where you are found.**

**For you, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are With full and endless sight.**

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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Musical Introduction

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Christian Worship # 474

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict In this his glorious day!
Ye that are brave, now serve him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, The next, the victor's song.
To him that overcometh A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

English Aire

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Marty Puckett

Violin/Cello: Vince Beiderbecke

Percussion: Don Black

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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.

Sunday Bible Studies

Adults, 9:30 (also online) ... "Getting to Know Martin Luther of 1500"

Children Sunday School, 9:15 in the Chapel... "Jacob's Family"

Teens, 9:30 in the Teen Room ... "The Book of 1 Peter"

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

Finish the thought: They who hesitate ... Review the specific instructions Lot was given by the angels. Despite the clear instructions note how Lot and his family followed them. How is God's mercy evident in this account? How is God's mercy evident today? How can your answer serve as a warning and also an encouragement? See Romans 1 & 2.

What is the 'joy' this group of believers gave to Paul? What was the content of Paul's prayer? What event does Paul remind the people is coming? What evidence is there of a lack of love in our society? How can you be an influencer of love with those around you? See Romans 12:9-21.

What are some of the signs that this world is 'winding down'? What is the point of verse 34? What is the way to escape what will be taking place at the appointed time for this world? See Romans 13:8-14.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

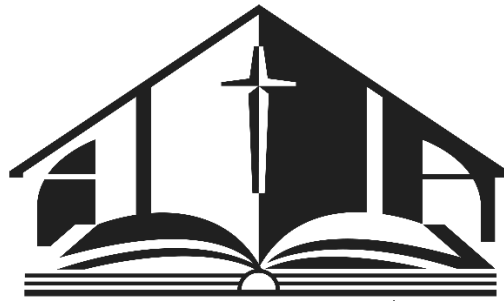
Today	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	Teacher Call Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Advent by Candlelight
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Class
Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Catechism Class
	9:30 a.m.	Starting Point BIC Class
Next Sunday		** Holy Communion** & *Mission Box Offering*
	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	4:00 p.m.	River City Chorale Performance

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
David Hahn	<i>Nov. 28</i>	
Amber Engberg	<i>Nov. 29</i>	
Susanna Ewing		
Louann Hahn		
Sarah Vosberg	<i>Dec. 3</i>	

To connect to the auto giving option:

To online Connect Card:





St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Website: www.StMarksLutheran.com

St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: stmarks7869

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel

Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:15 (Live streamed) ... Teens in the Teen Room

Monday Evening Service at 7:00 PM in the Adm Building Chapel

Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:20 a.m.

Jonathan Kolander

Stacie Malone

Linda Halfhill

Shawn Butler

Mike Rausch

Darren Vogt

Tyler Wahl

Hannah Ripley

Rosemarie Boushek

Alyssa Bergemann

Greg Thiesfeldt

Ruth Vogt

Dena Oswald

Pastor

Office Adm

Office Adm

Campus Custodian

Teen Study Leader

Principal, Grades 7-8

Grades 5-6

Grades 3-4

Grades 1-2

Jr.K/Kindergarten

Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8

Art

Ext. School Day Care

Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel