

# **CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

**December 5, 2021**



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

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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:

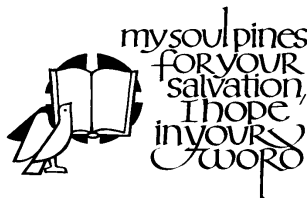
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](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).

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Worship Focus:** Which laundry detergent do you prefer to use and why that one? For some it might be the scent, for others it might be that it does not have additives which can cause a rash; not one detergent is for everybody. It is a different story when it comes to the ‘detergent’ we need for the mess caused by sin; there is only one that will work, and this one does meet everyone’s needs ... in fact, it is the only one that can. Today’s ‘Advent Moment’ highlights what this ‘detergent’ is and how it impacts our life for good.

## PRELUDE

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

*Janet Vogt*

## *Greeting & 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.

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

(Ps 84)

**C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD.**

M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

**C: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;**

M: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**C: O LORD Almighty, blessed are they who trust in you.**

M: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

**C: Let us worship Him.**

## OPENING HYMN

*Musical Introduction*

**Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel**

*Christian Worship # 23*

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

**C: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

*(1 John 4)*

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

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.

**All: 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.**



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**O LORD, OUR LORD** *(no musical introduction) ... See page 5*



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood.      You are the

King of glo - ry;      you are the Lord!      O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

**M:** We pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;

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

**CHOIR**

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**The Redeemer Will Come**

David Angerman & Michael Barrett

*The Redeemer will come unto Zion,  
And the people will gather and clap their hands.  
The Redeemer will come unto Zion,  
And the glory of God will be known.*

*The Messiah will come unto Zion,  
And the people will gather and clap their hands.  
The messiah will come unto Zion,  
And the glory of God will be known.*

*Alleluia, come lift your voice on high.  
Sing alleluia. Your redemption draw-eth nigh.*

*Savior of the nations, our hearts are open wide.  
And with great anticipation, we lift our songs on high.  
Lift up ye gates; break forth in endless praise.  
Lord of all creation, come to us, we pray.*

*The Redeemer will come unto Zion,  
And the people will gather and clap their hands.*

*The Redeemer will come unto Zion,  
And the glory of God will be known.*

*Come, Emmanuel. Sing we all, Noel.  
Come, Emmanuel, Savior, come!*

## **A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*Our world is in desperate need to take this ‘cleansing agent’ seriously.*

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup>and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. *TWOTL*

## **OPENING HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

**Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations**

*Christian Worship # 577*

**Rise, O Light of Gentile nations, Jesus, bright and Morning Star;  
Let your Word, the gladsome tidings, Ring out loudly near and far,  
Bringing freedom to the captives, Peace and comfort to the slave,  
That the heathen, free from bondage, May proclaim your pow’r to save.**

**Savior, shine in all your glory On the nations near and far;  
From the highways and the byways Call them forth, O Morning Star.  
Guide them whom your grace has chosen Out of Satan’s dreadful thrall  
To the mansions of your Father—There is room for sinners all.**

## **A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

*We have been given a secret, one we are not to keep to ourselves.*

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. <sup>2</sup>Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. <sup>3</sup>I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord

comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. *TWOTL*

## **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

## **You Are the Way; through You Alone**

*Christian Worship # 356*

**You are the way; through you alone Can we the Father find;  
In you, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone True wisdom can impart.  
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.**

*Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.*

## **A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 3:1-6**

*A salvation rooted in forgiveness.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup>And all people will see God’s salvation.”

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to You, O Christ!**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Musical Introduction*

## **Prepare the Royal Highway**

*Christian Worship Supplement # 702*



**Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!**

**God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal King!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!**

**Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised King!  
Your King, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before him! All nations, now adore him!  
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!**

#### **FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**Based on Malachi 3:1-4**

**“An Advent Moment ... The Lord Shows You Are Worth Saving”**

#### **A CONFESSION OF FAITH – FROM THE NICENE CREED**

**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. 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.*

### Thank Offering Prayer

*We speak together*

**Lord of All Good**

*Christian Worship # 483*

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring you now; Use them your holy purpose to fulfill.  
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be That our whole life is offered to your will.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows; Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows: To you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy on behalf of your people.

**C: We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who has ascended into heaven and sits at your right hand.**

M: We rejoice in the knowledge that he is our advocate before your throne and that he intercedes for us in all our needs.

**C: Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truths.**

M: Give to all who serve your holy Church a full measure of your grace that Christ may be confessed, his cross uplifted, and his gospel declared as the only way to eternal life. Bless all parents that they may be wholesome examples to their children.

**C: May they teach their children to love you, to practice virtue, to desire to pursue instruction in your Word, and to serve your Church and all people.**

M: Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted. In the quiet hour of the night, when they are weighed down with pain, loneliness, and anxiety, bring them strength and hope by assuring them that your love endures, your power overcomes, and your presence remains constant.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: As we leave this hour of worship, we give all glory to Jesus.

**C: To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. 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.**

### THE SACRAMENT

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.**

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*

*The ushers will direct Communicants in a continuous flow distribution of the Sacrament. Communicants will exit the pews to the outside and return to their seats via the center aisle. We start from the front to the back on the Lecturn side, and back to front on the Pulpit side. If you need to be communed in the pew, please let an Usher know of this. When approaching each table, communicants may pause as they take and eat / drink.*

*As a reminder: Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members and those who spoke with the Pastor ahead of time partake of the Sacrament. In the future, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor following the Service / during the week.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

### **You Satisfy the Hungry Heart**

*Christian Worship Supplement # 744*

*At 8:00 All sing the Verses & the Refrains*

*At 10:45 the Vocalist will sing the Verses, Congregation joins on the Refrains*

*(Refrain) You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.  
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, The Bread of Life to eat.*

**As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice,  
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. Refrain**

**With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude,  
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav'nly food. Refrain**

**Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? Refrain**

**The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell;  
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain**

**You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name In truth and charity. Refrain**

#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

#### **Almighty Father, Bless the Word**

*Christian Worship # 323*

**Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit.**

**We praise you for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here  
May all at last in heav'n appear.**

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 in his true body and blood 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.**

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

*Musical Introduction*

## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

*Christian Worship # 353*

**Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the one who makes us one.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Mark Hayes*

## TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

### Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek ... Percussion: Don Black ... Vocalist: Jenny Kolander

Flowers: The flowers in front of church have been provided by Chuck & Kathy Edwards in honor of their Anniversary at the end of this month! Congratulations!!!

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**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... "Esau Forgives Jacob"

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

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

Malachi is speaking to the remnant who had returned after the Babylonian Captivity. The believers needed to hear a stern message, why? Yet, the Lord still repeats His promise regarding salvation, which is what? Who is the 'messenger,' and what was his message? Who can, and how can they, endure God's judgment? See Hebrews 9.

Paul had been talking about what is foolish and what is wise; one's answer depends on the vantage point. What is your vantage point? Why is the Gospel a 'secret'? Whose opinion really matters when all is said and done? How does this knowledge impact your life now, day to day? See 1 Thessalonians 2.

Why include all the names? What was John's message? Does it seem people do not heed this message today, if that is the case, why is that? What promise does God give here, and how does the promise go to fulfillment? See Galatians 3:15-4:7.

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

## Weekly Calendar

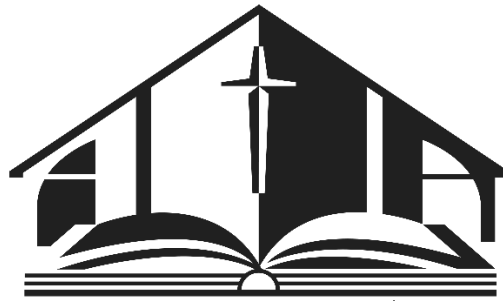
Today		***Holy Communion*** *Mission Box Offering*
	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Worhsip Service
	4:00 p.m.	River City Chorale Performance
Monday	7:00 p.m.	<b>NO</b> - Monday Worship Service
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Board of Child Discipleship
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	5:30 pm.	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
	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council Meeting
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Starting Point (BIC)
	11:00 a.m.	Nativity Set Up Practice
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Children's Christmas Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Children's Christmas Service
	4:00 p.m.	Sacramento Children's Chorus Performance

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Terry Drennon	<i>Dec 5</i>	
Gail Verthein	<i>Dec 6</i>	
Ruth Vogt		
Robert Vosberg	<i>Dec 7</i>	
Garrison Baker	<i>Dec 8</i>	
Jason Sigman		
Mike Rostad	<i>Dec 9</i>	
Mark Panasiuk	<i>Dec 10</i>	
Loren Puckett		
Edna Bellamy	<i>Dec 11</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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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) & 10:45 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel  
Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (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	Pastor
Stacie Malone	Office Adm
Linda Halfhill	Office Adm
Shawn Butler	Campus Custodian
Mike Rausch	Teen Study Leader
Darren Vogt	Principal, Grades 7-8
Tyler Wahl	Grades 5-6
Hannah Ripley	Grades 3-4
Rosemarie Boushek	Grades 1-2
Alyssa Bergemann	Jr.K/Kindergarten
Greg Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8
Ruth Vogt	Art
Dena Oswald	Ext. School Day Care

**Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel**