

CELEBRATING THE LOVE OF GOD

Advent Midweek # 2

December 8, 2021



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

Focus for our Midweek Gatherings --- Jesus Fills The Potholes

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.

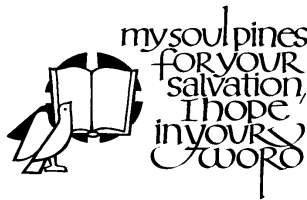
We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

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.



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

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: Jesus fills the potholes? Say what? Life is full of potholes, just like our roads. Jesus has an eternal remedy for the potholes of life. The remedy has roots in Christmas, and the full benefits of this remedy will be known when Jesus comes again at the end of the ages. We cannot have heaven without the 'reason' for Christmas. Due to a variety of reasons, Christmas can be a depressing time for people while for others it is a time of happiness and celebration; Jesus gets that. This is why the Season of Advent is an important time of the year in our church. The Advent Season connects Christmas and the End of the Ages as we hear again what Jesus has accomplished for us and has waiting for us.

PRELUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Arr. John Behnke

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

As the Hymn is sung the lighting of the Advent Wreath will take place

Musical Introduction



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where - fore you are through



blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

M: O LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them?

C: They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow.

(Ps 144)

M: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

C: his greatness no one can fathom.

(Ps 145)

M: The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

C: The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Christian Worship # 13

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;**

**But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-8

If we look to find comfort from what this world has to offer, we will be disappointed and left without hope. Thankfully Jesus offers us a hope which is not just for this life, and not at our expense.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." *TWOTL*

HYMN

Musical Introduction

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Christian Worship # 382

**My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
(Refrain) *On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.***

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.**
(Refrain) On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

**His oath, his covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.** *Refrain*

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before his throne.** *Refrain*

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

“Jesus Fills The Potholes ... By Giving Us Hope”

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

SONG

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Creator of the Stars of Night

Arr. Hal H Hopson

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You, hear us when we call.*

*When this old world drew on toward night, You came, but not in splendor bright
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, chosen mother mild.*

*At Your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n, shall call You Lord.*

*To God Creator, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.*



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.

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

M: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do His will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Musical Introduction

To God Be the Glory

Christian Worship # 399

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory—great things he has done!**

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

Announcements

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Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor David Koelpin from Foundation Lutheran in Folsom
Accompanist: Marty Puckett



Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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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
Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm (indoors) & 8:00 pm (outdoors)
Christmas Day at 10:30 am
New Year's Eve at 5:00 pm

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