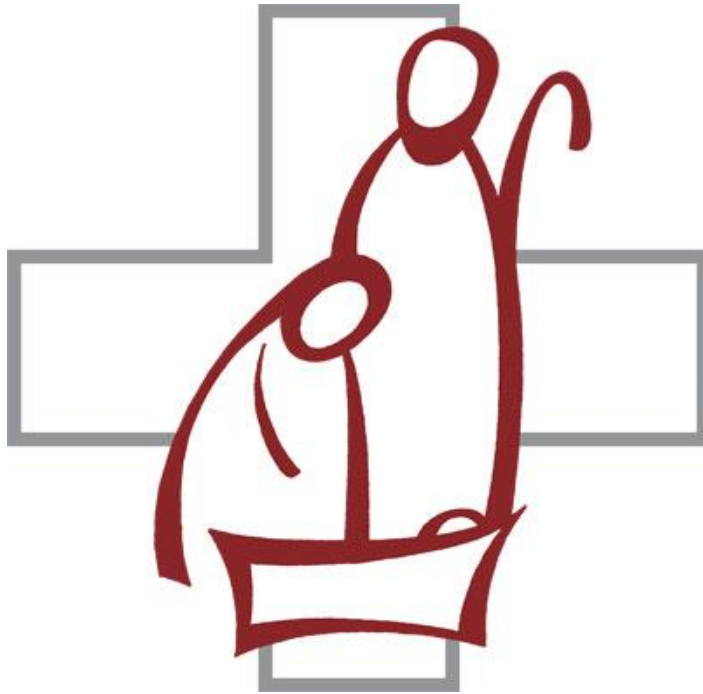


# CELEBRATING THE PEACE WE HAVE FROM GOD

December 25, 2024



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

**We are St. Mark's Church & School**

A WELST<sup>†</sup>NorCal **Ministry** ... Other Area Locations  
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

*WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries*

# Christmas Day --- Peace on Earth

December 25, 2024

## 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:

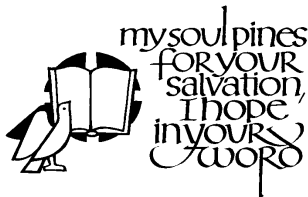
Members & Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a blue **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the Thank Offering Box which are on the Lobby walls as you enter the worship area or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

**LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Dark Blue (2021) / 'Christian Worship Supplement' (blue soft cover)*

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:** The world keeps searching for it and it will not find it where it looks because it is looking in the wrong spot for it. The 'it' is peace in the heart which is a peace that can drive the peace the world says it seeks. The correct place to find such peace is in Jesus. He came to earth to win our peace with God the Father, and with that accomplished we can have peace with one another as well. Yet, apart from Jesus, such peace will not be found. How many people miss the reason for Christmas and so miss the peace which can fill the void and provide purpose to life and promote goodwill among all? Thankfully we know peace, as we know Jesus. Merry Christmas!

## PRELUDE

### *Greeting & Invocation*

Minister: O Lord, you are the King of heaven and earth.

**Congregation: We give you praise and thanks. Alleluia!**

M: We worship this Christmas Day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. Peace came to earth.**

## HYMN

*Musical Introduction*

**Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**

*Christian Worship Red # 55*

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,**

**Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.**

*Refrain Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,**

**Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,**

**Only begotten Son of God the Father. *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;**

**Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.**

**Glory to God, all Glory in the highest. *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,**

**Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. *Refrain***

M: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (*Genesis 3:15*)

**C: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)**

**HYMN**

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

*Musical Introduction ... Choir will be adding Bells with Verses 2 & 3*

*Christian Worship Red # 34*

**Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

**Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reigned Through sin and vanity;  
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all his saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

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.**

*Christmas - Peace & Joy in the air*

**HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

**See in Yonder Manger Low**

*Christian Worship Red # 58*

**See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,  
See—the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Refrain Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption’s happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. Refrain**

**Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this. Refrain**

**Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee In thy sweet humility. Refrain**

**A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7**

*What a breath taking way for the Lord to reveal who He is and how He operates.*

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”<sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.<sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.<sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.<sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,<sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Choir & Congregation**

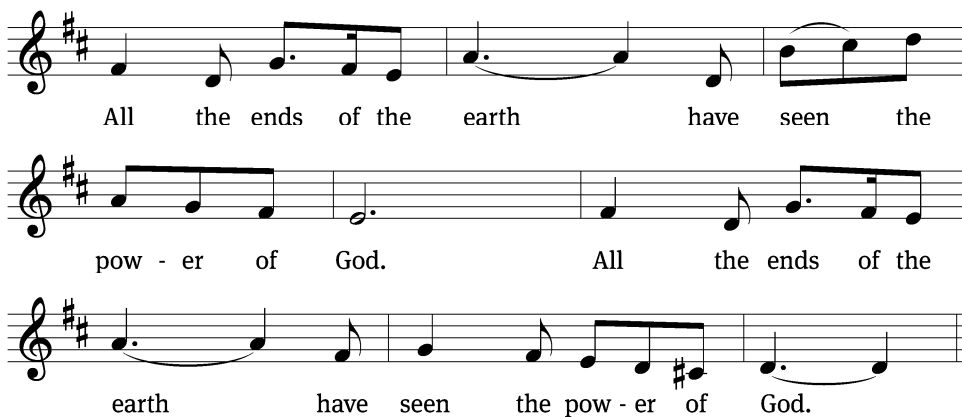
**Psalm 98C – All the Ends of the Earth Have Seen**

*Christian Worship New*

*See page 6 for the Song*

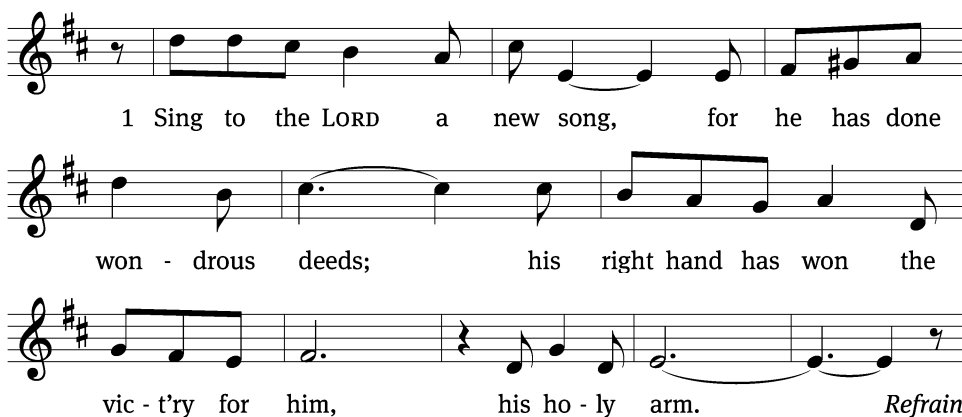
*Choir sings the first Refrain, then the Congregation repeats it  
Congregation joins on the following Refrains*

*Refrain*



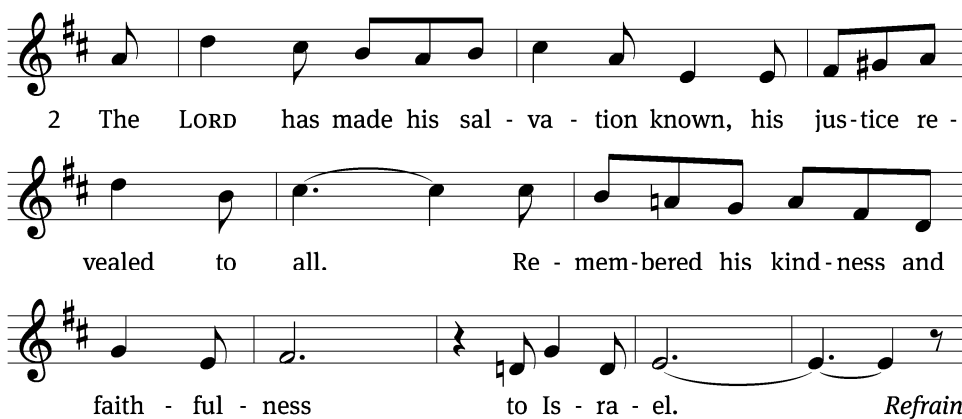
All the ends of the earth have seen the  
pow - er of God. All the ends of the  
earth have seen the pow - er of God.

*Verse*



1 Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done  
won - drous deeds; his right hand has won the  
vic - t'ry for him, his ho - ly arm. *Refrain*

*Verse*



2 The LORD has made his sal - va - tion known, his jus - tice re -  
vealed to all. Re - mem - bered his kind - ness and  
faith - ful - ness to Is - ra - el. *Refrain*

Verse

3 All of the ends of earth have seen sal - va - tion  
by our God. Joy - ful - ly sing out,  
all you lands; break forth in song. *Refrain*

Verse

4 Sing to the LORD with harp and song, with trum - pet  
and with horn. Sing in your joy be -  
fore the King, the King, our LORD. *Refrain*



**A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

**Romans 8:31-32**

*Proof we can count on God.*

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN***Musical Introduction***Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising***Christian Worship Red # 42*

**Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing his love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**See how God, for us providing, Gave his Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.**

**Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending,  
In our need his help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.**

**Jacob's Star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.**

**Gracious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your lowly manger cheer us.  
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join th' angelic choir.**

**FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES****Based on John 1:1-18****“The Way To See God And Live”**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**OUR THANK OFFERING**

***Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank***



*offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web 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.

**C: Amen.**

*And we also pray ...*

**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 ☩ 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 ☩ 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.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

### *DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT*

*The Ushers will direct Communicants by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Communion Assistant. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be placed on the backside of the Rail. **If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west (Pulpit) side, right to left.** When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher or the Pastor know of this.*

*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*

**To God Be the Glory**

*Christian Worship Red # 399*

**To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

*Refrain 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!*

**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. *Refrain***

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see. *Refrain***



**M: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!** *(Ps 8)*

**C: I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of your wonders. I will be glad  
and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.** *(Ps 9)*

**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.**

## HYMN

*Musical Introduction*

**Joy to the World**

*Christian Worship Red # 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.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Announcements**

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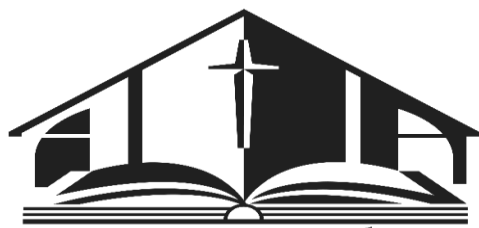
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Presiding Minister: Jonathan Kolander

Accompanist: Chantel Kolander

*To connect to our website and the auto giving option:*





**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](http://www.StMarksLutheran.com)

St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: [stmarks7869](#)

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

Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.

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