



# ADVENT PROJECTS

St. Mark's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ADVENT PROJECTS: COMFORT

December 17, 2025

## **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 box on the wall 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.

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.

Find out more at [stmarkslutheran.com](http://stmarkslutheran.com).

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).

# Opening Responses

with Psalm 40

## & My Soul in Stillness Waits

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen!**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

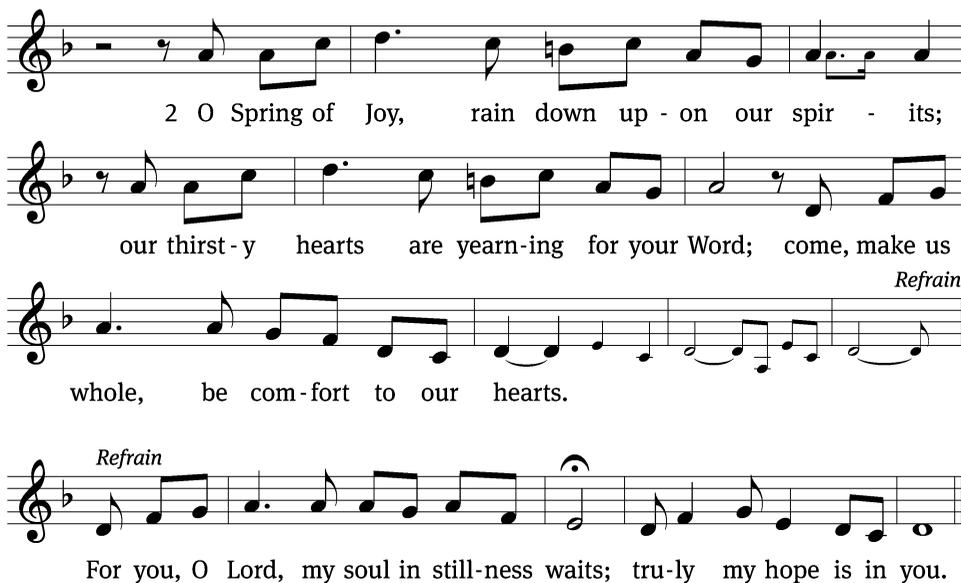
**He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.**

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

**Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.**

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

**Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us.**



2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your Word; come, make us  
whole, be com - fort to our hearts. *Refrain*  
*Refrain*  
For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness waits; tru - ly my hope is in you.

None can compare with you, Lord;

**were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.**

Be pleased to save me, Lord;

**come quickly, Lord, to help me.**

As for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me.

**You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.**

4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to  
*Refrain*  
 us the path-way of your peace.  
*Refrain*  
 For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711071

## Prayer

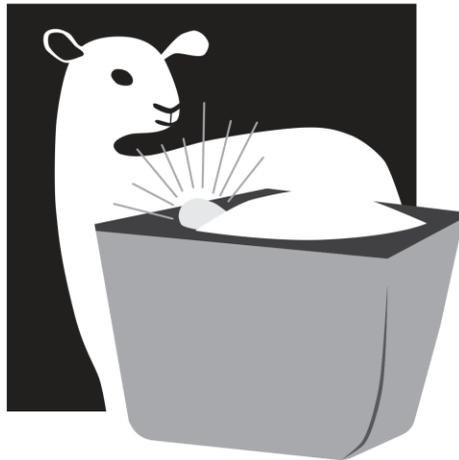
In the stillness of this night, O Lord, we come to you for comfort and for hope. Without your constant presence and guidance, we would so quickly fall away. Stay with us. Fill our hearts to overflowing measures with the peace of sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life with you. Bless us this night. Send us your Spirit as we meditate on your Word. We would see Jesus and him only; we pray in his name.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 86

- <sup>1</sup>Hear me, LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.
- <sup>2</sup>Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.  
You are my God; <sup>3</sup>have mercy on me, Lord,  
for I call to you all day long.
- <sup>4</sup>Bring joy to your servant, Lord,  
for I put my trust in you.
- <sup>5</sup>You, Lord, are forgiving and good,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.
- <sup>6</sup>Hear my prayer, LORD;  
listen to my cry for mercy.
- <sup>7</sup>When I am in distress, I call to you,  
because you answer me.
- <sup>8</sup>Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.
- <sup>9</sup>All the nations you have made  
will come and worship before you, Lord;  
they will bring glory to your name.
- <sup>10</sup>For you are great and do marvelous deeds;  
you alone are God.
- <sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, LORD,  
that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.
- <sup>12</sup>I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;  
I will glorify your name forever.
- <sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the depths,  
from the realm of the dead.

- <sup>14</sup>Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
they have no regard for you.
- <sup>15</sup>But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
- <sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
show your strength in behalf of your servant;  
save me, because I serve you  
just as my mother did.
- <sup>17</sup>Give me a sign of your goodness,  
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,  
for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.



# Comfort, Comfort All My People

Blue hymnal 312



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so  
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each  
3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert  
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing  
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no  
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;  
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their  
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their  
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."  
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Devotion

Isaiah 40:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

## Evening Prayers

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness.

Lord, your mercies are new every morning, and in the evening we can lie down in peace, for you alone make us dwell in safety. For all who are lonely, be the great Friend who is always there. For all who grieve, honor their tears and give newfound joy. For all who live with pain or

health complications, give perseverance and relief. Lead us to acknowledge that every good gift comes from you. Guard our weary hearts and restless minds with your peace that surpasses all understanding; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

## Blessing

God your Creator watch over you in love and bless you this night.  
Jesus, your Rescuer, stay close as your good Shepherd through the hours of darkness.

The Holy Spirit, your God of comfort, fill your heart with his love and grant you peaceful rest.

**Amen!**

## All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

*Blue hymnal 789*



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for all the bless - ings  
2 Teach me to live that I may dread the grave as lit - tle  
3 When in the night I sleep - less lie, my soul with heav'n - ly



of the light. Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine  
as my bed. Teach me to die that so I may rise glo - rious  
thoughts sup - ply; let no ill dreams dis - turb my rest, no pow'rs of



own al - might - y wings. For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
at the awe - full day. Oh, may my soul on thee re - pose  
dark-ness me dis - tress. Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;



the ill that I this day have done, that with the world, my -  
and may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, sleep that shall me more  
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



self, and thee I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
vig - 'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake.  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.  
Tune: Charles F. Gounod, 1818-1893, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

### Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tim Leistekow

Christ Lutheran Church, Lodi, CA

Musical Accompanist: Jeri Reed

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





Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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

A WELS<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*

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