



CHRISTMAS EVE

St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus, 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 and guests: Please fill out a **Connection Card** which allows us to keep in touch, remember names, and answer any questions you might have. They are available under the wooden boxes on the walls in the lobby and may be placed in the box when filled out. 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 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.

Find out more at stmarkslutheran.com.

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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Blue hymnal 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Amen!

The Meaning of Christmas

God's Word

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Away in a Manger

Blue hymnal 340



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes,
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.

Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Message

In the Fullness of Time

Sung by the choir

In the fullness of time God sent his Son,
Immanuel, now behold incarnate Love.
A virgin and her child, a Savior meek and mild,
The star become the sign in the fullness of time.

Prophets long they foretold the promised dawn;
Hail God of God, Light of Light, begotten One,
By whom all things were made, there in a manger laid.
Now born to us this night in the fullness of time.

Holy, holy, holy moment,
God has come to dwell with us.
Glory to the Lamb, the great I Am who came
On that night divine,
In the fullness of time.

Hosts of angels resounded at his birth,
And hosts of angels will endless tell his worth,
And he shall come again; his kingdom has no end.
All things made new, made right in the fullness of time.

Holy, holy, holy,
In a manger lowly,
Christ the Son now veiled in flesh
In our humanity.
Kingdoms bow before him,
Heav'n and earth adore him.
God here in person,
Hail his majesty!

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Message from God's Word

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace.

Peace for the Weary

Angels We Have Heard on High

Blue hymnal 346



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.
Tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

The Christmas Account

Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Blessing

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.

Amen!

Silent Night, Holy Night

Blue hymnal 337



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts__ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863

Text and tune: Public domain

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Worship Leader: Pastor Kurt Wetzel

Musical Accompanist: Jeri Reed

Cello: Vince Beiderbecke

To connect to our website and to give online:



Join Us Again

Worship

Sunday, December 28: 9:30 a.m.

Regular Sunday worship (resuming in January): 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Starting Point

Religion and spirituality can sometimes leave us confused without feeling any closer to God. But knowing God and finding peace in life doesn't have to be hard. Starting Point is a 10-week course where we lay out the message of Jesus and the Bible in a simple, easy-to-follow format to give you everything you need to connect to God, purpose and community. Find certainty about your relationship with God and good news at the cross of Christ.

Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. | Next session starting January 15

Find out more and register at: stmarkslutheran.com/new/bible-information-class/ or contact Pastor Wetzel (kwetzel@stmarkslutheran.com).



Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELS[†]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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