



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

*St. Mark's*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 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 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).

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# O Come, All Ye Faithful

Blue hymnal 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.

Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Christmas Responses

with Psalm 98

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

**And also with you!**

Glory to God in the highest!

**Christ, the Savior is born!**

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

Glory to God in the highest!

**Christ, the Savior is born!**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
make music to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the LORD, the King!

Glory to God in the highest!

**Christ, the Savior is born!**

## Prayer

Almighty God, the birth of your only Son in the flesh has set us free from our bondage under the yoke of sin. Fill our hearts with joy and your unending peace, give us rest in the forgiveness of our sins, and let your blessing be upon us this Christmas Day; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## God's Word

Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace,  
who bring good tidings,  
who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion,  
"Your God reigns!"

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;  
together they shout for joy.  
When the LORD returns to Zion,  
they will see it with their own eyes.

<sup>9</sup>Burst into songs of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will lay bare his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see  
the salvation of our God.

## Behold, a Branch Is Growing

*Sung by the vocalist*

Behold, a Branch is growing  
Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sang, foreknowing;  
It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little flower  
In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

This flower, so small and tender,  
With fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness  
That kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man,  
He came to save his people  
From earth's dark night of sin.

O Savior, Child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woes,  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who conquered all our foes,  
Bring us at last, we pray,  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day.

<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

# Joy to the World

*Blue hymnal 353*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

<sup>1</sup>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.

### **The Word Became Flesh**

## Statement of Faith

## "We Praise You, O God"

**We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting. To you all angels, all powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting! Amen.**

## Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor.*

**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 Lord's Supper

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians, united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask those who have made that public confession of faith by being a member of our congregation or another WELS or ELS congregation come forward to receive Communion. Guests, please speak with our pastor to learn more, and we look forward to communing with you in the future.*

## Words of Institution

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."

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.  
Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.**

## Distribution of the Lord's Supper

*The ushers will direct those receiving Communion up the center aisle, returning down 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. 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.*

# Joy Has Dawned

Blue hymnal 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—  
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels  
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.  
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:  
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,  
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;  
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.  
cling now to a moth - er's breast, \_ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.  
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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## Blessing

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Blue hymnal 361



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, verses, alt.

Tune: African American spiritual

Text and tune: Public domain

## TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

### **Serving at Worship**

Worship Leader: Pastor Kurt Wetzel

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

*To connect to our website and to give online:*



### **Acknowledgments**

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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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