

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

To know Christ and to make Christ known.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

AN ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

DECEMBER 24, 2024

7:00PM

Order of Service

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission: To know Christ and to make Christ Known

THE PRELUDE

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Diane Bish

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAROL

The congregation stands



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



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Tune, MUELLER
Music, JAMES R. MURRAY
Text, ANONYMOUS

THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Christ is born! Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray.
Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(The Congregation may be seated)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

REMARKS

PASTOR BRIAN VASEY

CAROL

The congregation stands



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Tune, ST. LOUIS
Music, LEWIS H. REDNER
Text, PHILLIPS BROOKS

THE NICENE CREED

Pastor Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

Congregation We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(after each petition)

Pastor Merciful God

Congregation Hear our prayer

THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Congregation And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and gestures of peace.

(The Congregation may be seated following the peace)

ANTHEM

O HOLY night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

(Verse 1 of 3)

Text, TR. JOHN S. DWIGHT

Music, Adolphe Adam

Arr. Mark Hayes

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Congregation stands

Pastor The Lord be with you
Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.
Congregation We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
Congregation It is right to give our thanks and praise

THE PREFACE

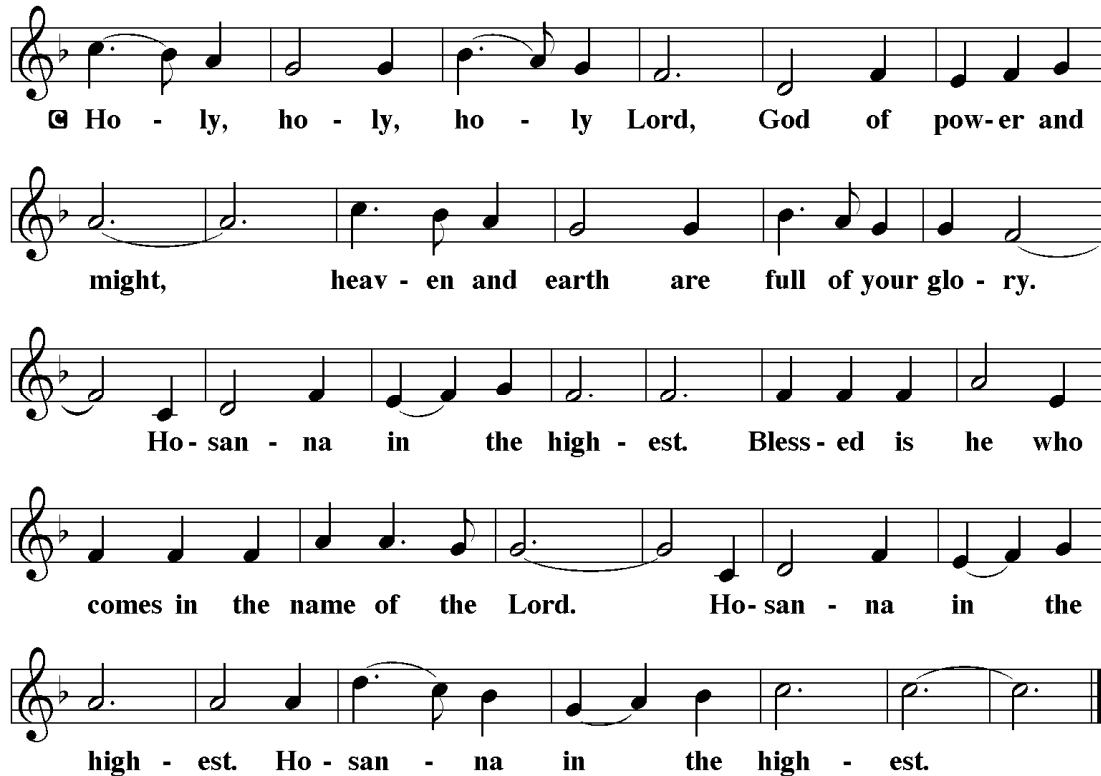
Pastor It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our
Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh, you have opened the
eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the
God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the
hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

WOV Setting V



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

Congregation Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI WOV Setting V

♪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

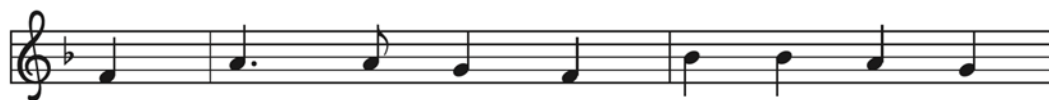
Pastor In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
 come, see what God makes known for you.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

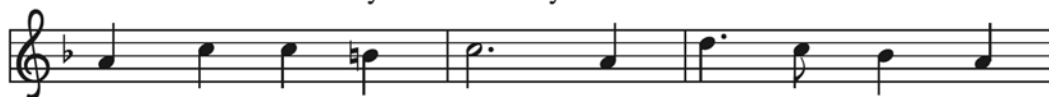
All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

(The congregation may be seated)

CAROL



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is
4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad tid - ings of great
born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is
hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.
Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

Tune, WINCHESTER OLD
Music, GEORGE KIRBYE
Text, NAHUM TATE

ANTHEM

REJOICE greatly, O daughter of Sion,
shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:
behold, thy King cometh unto thee.
He is the righteous Savior,
and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Words, ZECHARIAH 9:9-10
Music, George Friedrich Handel

AFTER COMMUNION *The Congregation stands*

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen
you and keep you in his grace.

Congregation Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace,
truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as
messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your
glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation Amen.

THE CANDLELIGHTING

Pastor Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory will be seen through you.

Congregation Amen.

(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor. Remember to keep your candles upright and burning until the conclusion of Joy to the World, raising your candle high on stanza 4).

CAROL

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

Tune, STILLE NACHT
Music, FRANZ GRUBER
Text, JOSEPH MOHR

THE BLESSING

Pastor May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

AT THE SENDING



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row 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 righ - teous -



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.

Tune, ANTIOCH
Music, LOWELL MASON
Text, ISAAC WATTS

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Congregation Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

17TH CENTURY FRENCH CAROL
ARR. KEITH CHAPMAN

IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS WE COMMEMORATE:

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of the seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Friday, December 27, 2024

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve apostles and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.



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