

For unto us a Child is born



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Friday, December 24, 2021
8:00 P.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader.
Bold text indicates the congregational response.

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the
cranberry-colored *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

ENTRANCE RITE

Christmas Proclamation

- L Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image;
long after the great flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given
to Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt
and Miriam danced in freedom;
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,
in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days

discerned by the prophets;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,
+ Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit
and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—
now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of 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, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

We greet one another with the words of St. Paul from 2 Corinthians 13:13.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

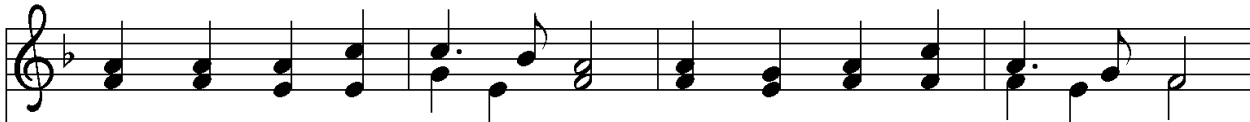
C And also with you.



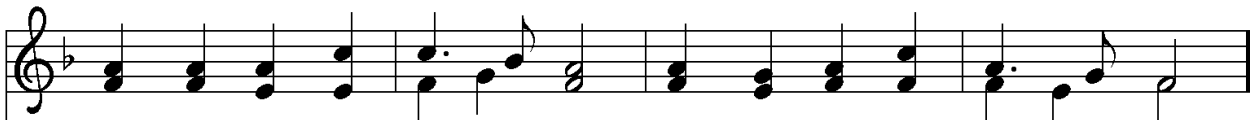
With the angels
we sing God's
glory revealed in
Jesus Christ.
Luke 2:14

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High




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;

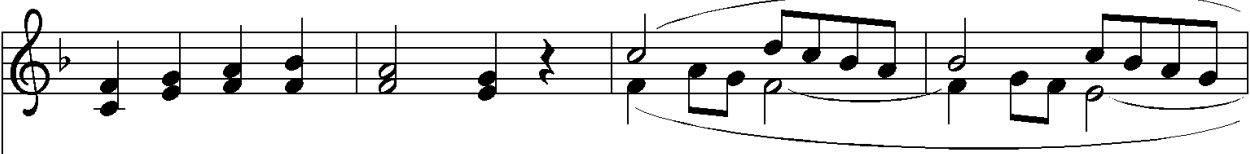


and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

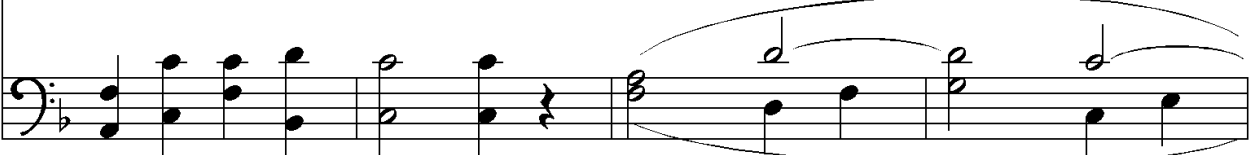

Refrain



Glo - ri - a

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

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



The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.

The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.

The first lesson is normally from the Old Testament.

A Psalm is read or sung as a response to the first lesson.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

L A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Hymn (based on Psalm 96:1-4, 11-12)

Sing to the Lord

1. Sing to the Lord new songs of praise; let all the
 2. De - clare God's glo - ry far and wide; God's won - drous
 3. Pro - claim, "It is the Lord who rules and who will
 4. O fields and for - ests, shout for joy when God our

earth sing to the Lord. Sing out and praise God's
 acts and ho - ly law; for God is great - ly
 judge with e - qui - ty"; Re - joice, O earth; O
 rul - er comes in might to judge the peo - ples

ho - ly Name; pro - claim good news with one ac - cord.
 to be praised and then be - held with great - est awe.
 sky, be glad; And roar, all crea - tures of the sea.
 with the truth, the whole cre - a - ted earth with right.

The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

L A reading from Titus.

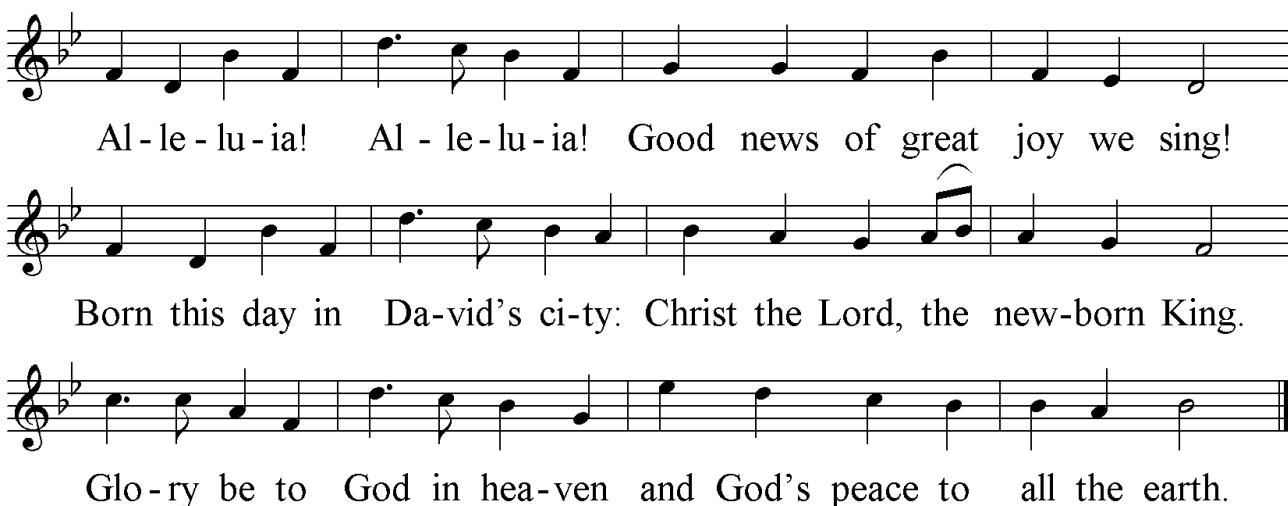
The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand as we are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Good news of great joy we sing!

Born this day in Da-vid's ci-ty: Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Glo - ry be to God in hea-ven and God's peace to all the earth.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 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!"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 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!

*The Nicene Creed
(which begins,
"We believe..." is
a statement of
faith which dates
to the fourth and
fifth centuries.*

The Creed

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

C **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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

*We join our hearts
in prayer as we
pray for the
Church, for the
well-being of crea-
tion, for peace and
justice, for those
in need. 1 Timothy
2:1-2*

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

*Much more than a
pleasant greet-
ing—we do this to
proclaim God's
promise of peace.
2 Corinthians
13:11*

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

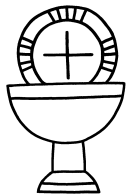
The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another from our pews, saying "Peace be with you."

The Offering



Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord's service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God's generous goodness.

Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

Anthem

Before the Marvel of This Night

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night,
adoring, fold your wings and bow,
then tear the sky apart with light
and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,
this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!
Sing love, sing God is love!

- text by Jaroslav Vajda

Offertory

What Child Is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
2. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

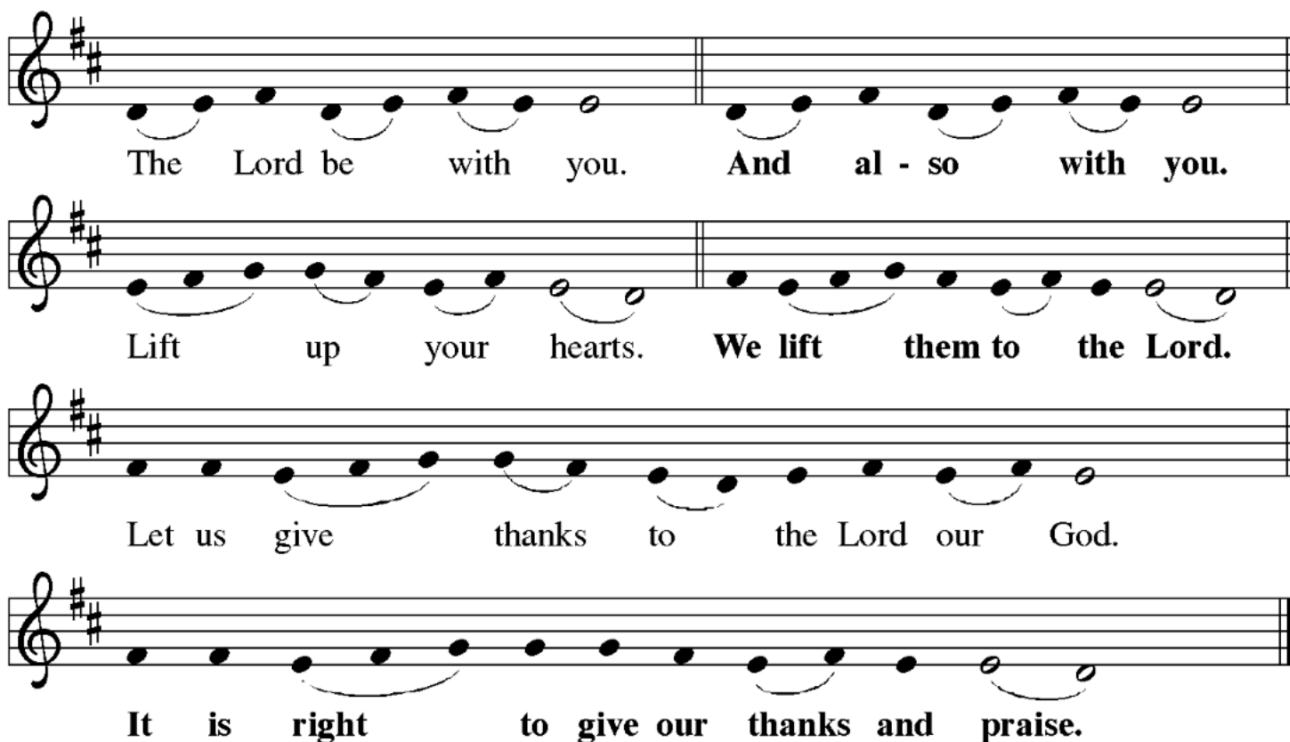
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma-ry!

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Gracious God,
C **your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.**
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth
you offer at this table
and renew in us the song of your salvation,
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

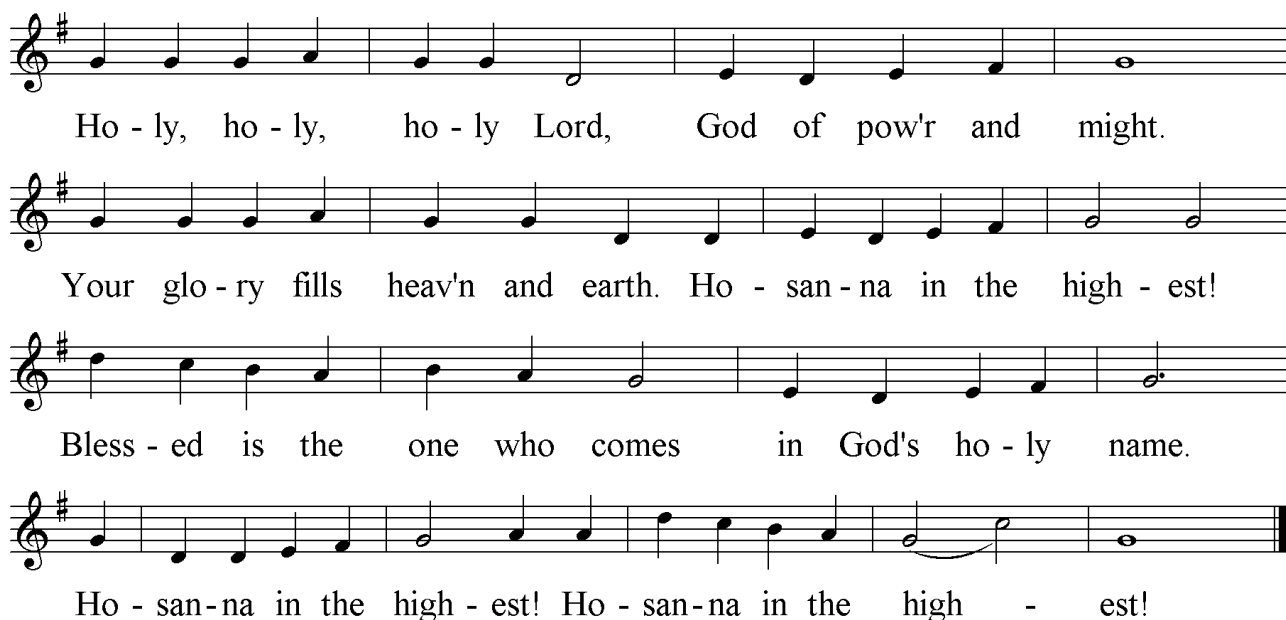
The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

The Proper Preface

The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."

The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Your glo - ry fills heav'n and earth. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the one who comes in God's ho - ly name.

Ho - san-na in the high - est! Ho - san-na in the high - est!

The Sanctus echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.

The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, creator of all
and source of life.

By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people
to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C Amen

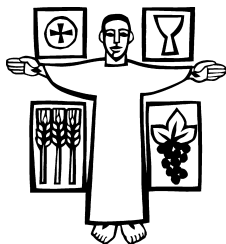
The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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**

We are seated.



COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle, forming two lines to receive communion in front of the chancel steps. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



Hymn

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - 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 bright 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.

Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Wondrous God,

C **We thank you for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

During the singing of Silent Night, we light our candles.

To pass the light, please hold lighted candles upright and allow others to light their candles from the flame.

Hymn

Silent Night



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
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,
ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
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,
Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
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
Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Blessing

P May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

C **Amen**

P May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

C **Amen**

P May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

C **Amen**

P And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C **Amen**

We extinguish our candles for the final hymn.





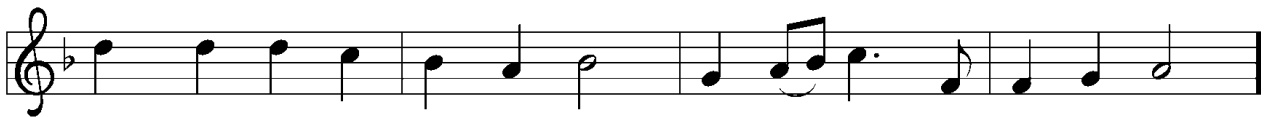
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.

Dismissal

P Go in peace, Christ is born!

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach

TO ALL WORSHIPERS

I want you to know that it has been a pleasure to worship together this evening and I look forward to worshipping together again.

For those who are new worshipers, know that St. Mark's is a gracious and hospitable congregation dedicated to sharing God's grace through worship and outreach, mission and ministry, in the community and beyond. Let us know if we can be helpful to you in the future.

Have a joyous Christmas season and a blessed New Year.

Pastor James L. Armentrout



Ministers and Staff

Ministers: Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Secretary / Financial Administrator: Kathy Bryant
Organist / Choir Director: Jacob Gordon
Pastor: James Armentrout

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O Come, All Ye Faithful—text: John Francis Wade, tr. Frederick Oakeley, sts. 1, 3-4, tr. unknown, st. 2; music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade.

Angels We Have Heard on High—text: French carol, tr. H. F. Hemy; music: GLORIA, French carol, arr. Edward S. Barnes.

Sing to the Lord New Songs of Praise—text: Psalm 96, para. Christopher L. Webber; music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl. C. N. Balle.

Text © 2008 by Christopher L. Webber.

O Little Town of Bethlehem—text: Phillips Brooks; music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner.

What Child Is This—text: William C. Dix; music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Away in a Manger—text: North American; music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray.

Silent Night—text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young; music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing—text: Charles Wesley, alt.; music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, arr. William H. Cummings.