



# First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021  
11:00 A.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.

Today's service of Lessons & Carols draws on both familiar and unusual lessons; we hear the prophet foretell the birth of the Savior; we hear the story of Jesus' birth from Luke's Gospel; from Matthew, we hear the story of the magi; and we hear John "unfold the great mystery of the incarnation." The fourth and sixth lessons are perhaps less familiar, but they reflect other feast days celebrated during the twelve days of Christmas. The fourth lesson, a continuation of Luke's nativity story, is the Gospel reading appointed for Name of Jesus (also called Circumcision of Jesus), celebrated on January 1, eight days after Christmas, when Jesus was circumcised and named and brought to Jerusalem. The sixth lesson is perhaps the most jarring for the joy we associate with the Christmas season as it recalls Matthew's account of the slaughter of the holy innocents by a jealous King Herod. The Holy Innocents are commemorated as martyrs on December 28. The final lesson—the Prologue to John's Gospel—is a traditional Christmas reading (for Christmas Day and the Second Sunday of Christmas), but it also reminds us that St. John is commemorated on December 27.

### Welcome

Prelude

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

arr. Robert L. Schmidt

## ENTRANCE RITE

*We stand as we are able.*

### Litany

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

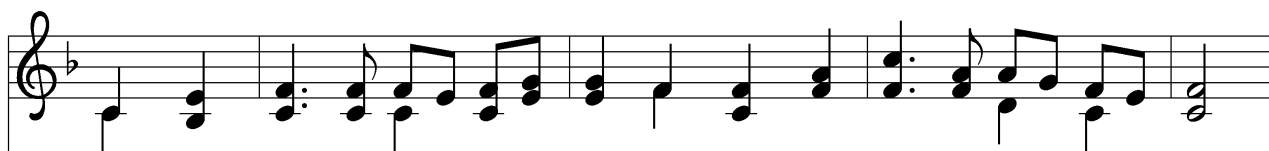
P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.

C **We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

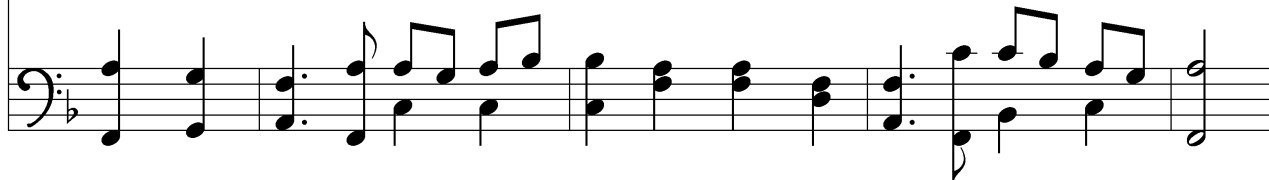
P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

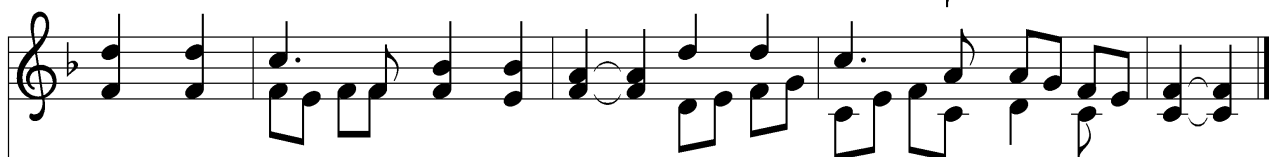
*Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



*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.*

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.  
Almighty God,  
you have filled us with the new light of the Word  
who became flesh and lived among us.  
Let the light of our faith shine in all we do;  
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. The congregation remains seated until the seventh lesson.*

### Reception of New Member

## LESSONS & CAROLS

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

*God promises a king.*

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

Voluntary

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. Paul Schwartz

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

*The birth of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

Hymn

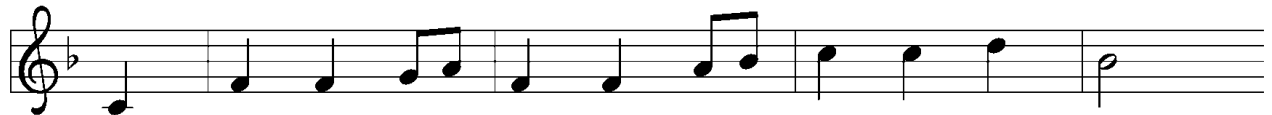
*Away in a Manger*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his 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 cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

### Third Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

*The shepherds go to see the Savior.*

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Hymn

### *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,  
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
and with true love and char - i - ty each oth - er now em -



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."  
- brace; this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy!



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

#### Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

##### *Jesus receives his name.*

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

#### Hymn

#### *Jesus, the Light of the World*



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

#### *Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

## Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

### *The magi follow the star.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Voluntary

*We Three Kings*

arr. Janet Linker

## Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2:13-18

### *The slaughter of the holy innocents.*

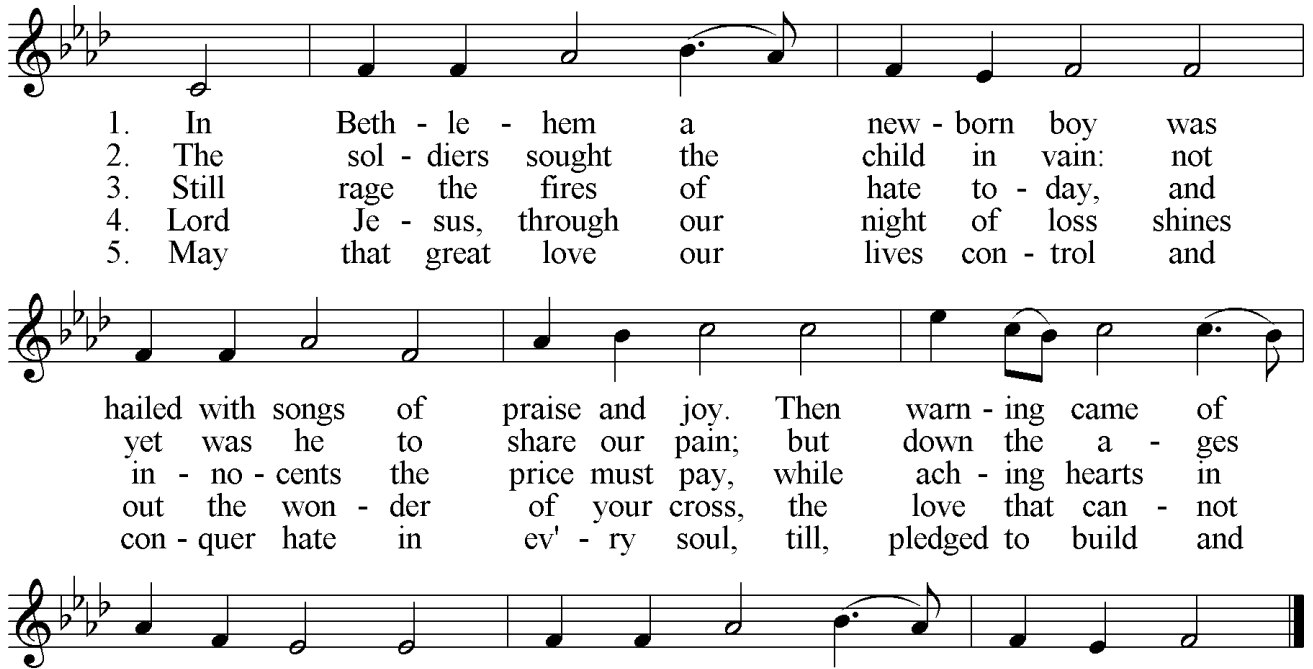
<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

## Hymn

## In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy



1. In Beth - le - hem a new - born boy was  
 2. The sol - diers sought the child in vain: not  
 3. Still rage the fires of hate to - day, and  
 4. Lord Je - sus, through our night of loss shines  
 5. May that great love our lives con - trol and

hailed with songs of praise and joy. Then warn - ing came of  
 yet was he to share our pain; but down the a - ges  
 in - no - cents the price must pay, while ach - ing hearts in  
 out the won - der of your cross, the love that can - not  
 con - quer hate in ev' - ry soul, till, pledged to build and

dan - ger near: King Her - od's troops would soon ap - pear.  
 rings the cry of those who saw their chil - dren die.  
 ev' - ry land cry out "We can - not un - der - stand!"  
 cease to bear our hu - man an - guish ev' - ry - where.  
 not de - stroy, we share your pain and find your joy.

*We stand as we are able for the final lesson.*

## Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-14

*The mystery of the incarnation.*

<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 in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did 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 to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

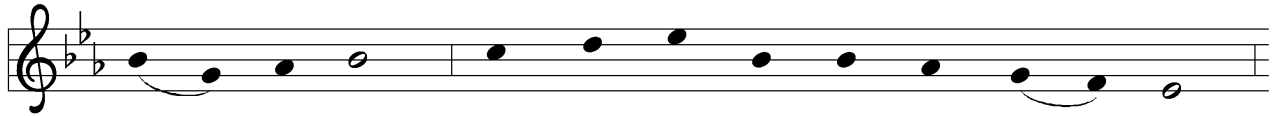
<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.





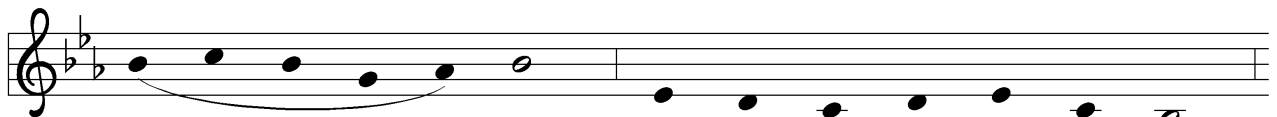
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



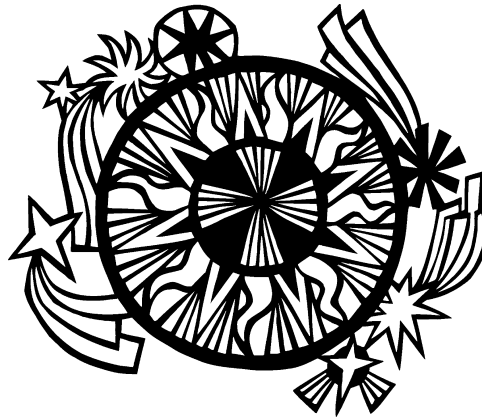
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

*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*

## Collect

- P Glory to God in the highest,  
**C and peace to God's people on earth.**  
 P Blessed are you, Prince of peace.  
 You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**  
 P Blessed are you, Son of Mary,  
 You share our humanity.  
 Be with those we name before you today, especially ...  
**C Have mercy on the sick, the dying,  
 And all who suffer this day.**  
 P Blessed are you, Son of God.  
 You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament  
 that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen**



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

*Our gifts are re-  
ceived and dedi-  
cated to our  
Lord's service.  
These offerings  
support the minis-  
tries of this con-  
gregation, the  
Virginia Synod,  
ELCA, and our  
global mission  
partners.*

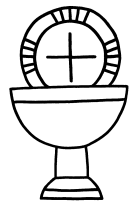
## THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

### 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."*

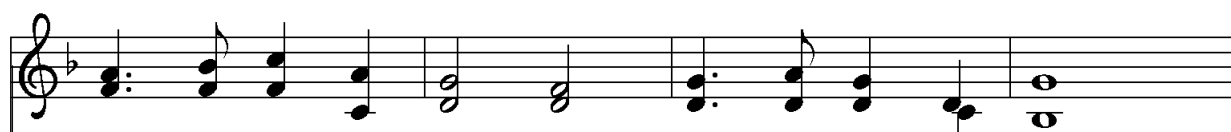
### The Offering



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

# Offertory Hymn

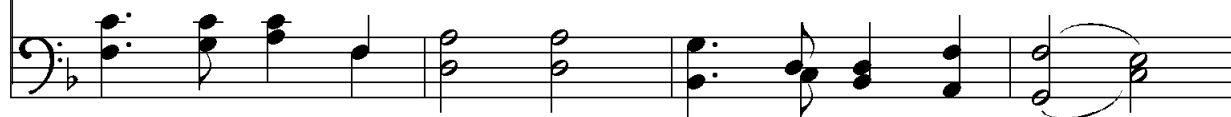
*In the Bleak Midwinter*



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;

*We stand and sing stanza 3 as our gifts are brought forward.*

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



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

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

*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 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.*

## 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**

## 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 Proper Preface

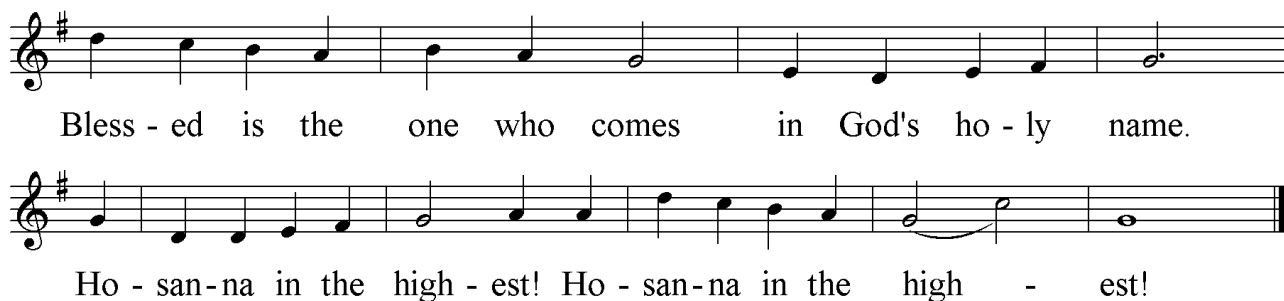
*The presiding minister continues:* "It is indeed right ..."

*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!



*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,**

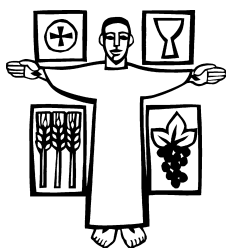
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**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.



*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**

## 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**



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*We are dismissed  
from worship  
knowing that our  
service does not  
end. Rather, hav-  
ing 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

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. Franklin Ashdown



#### 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 Little Town of Bethlehem* – text by Phillips Brooks; tune: FOREST GREEN, English traditional.

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God* – text from Luke 1:46-55, para. by Miriam Therese Winter; tune: MORNING SONG, from *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813. Text © Medical Mission Sisters, 1978, 1987. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* – text: English traditional carol; tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY, from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850.

*Jesus, the Light of the World* – text by Charles Wesley, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, refrain; tune: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional, arr. George Elderkin.

*In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy* – text by Rosamond E. Herklots; tune: BOURBON, by W. Hauser. Text © 1969 by Oxford University Press. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.

*Of the Father's Love Begotten* – text by Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, tr. composite; tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 13<sup>th</sup> cent. Plainsong.

*In the Bleak Midwinter* – text Christina G. Rossetti; tune: CRANHAM, by Gustav Holst.

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* – text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale; tune: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent., arr. Robert Pearsall.