



First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024
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 a congregational response.

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

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, you may use the QR code to the right.



Welcome
Prayer Requests

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.**

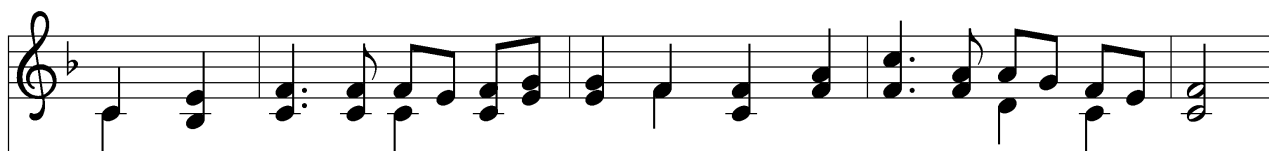
P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

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

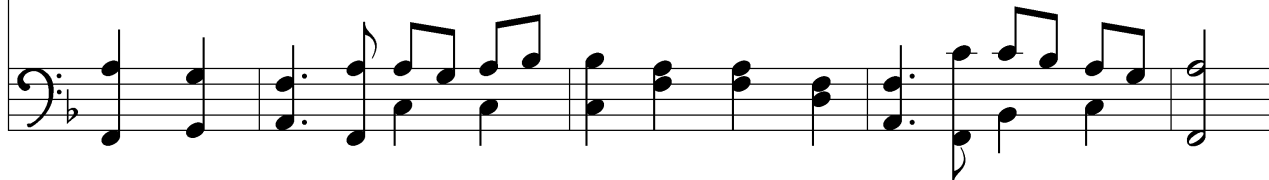
P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

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

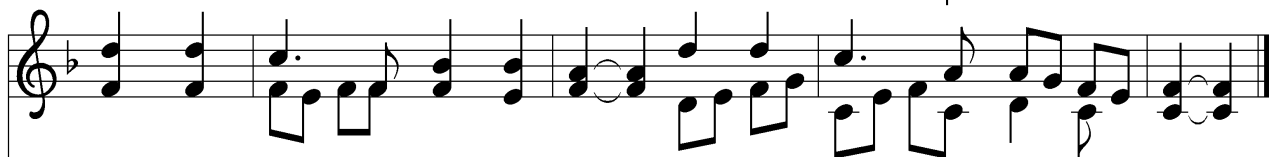
Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-17



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 apostolic
greeting quotes
the apostle Paul
(2 Cor. 13:14)*

*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 spe-
cial occasion in
the church cal-
endar.*

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

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 fifth lesson.

LESSONS & CAROLS

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

God promises a king.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

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

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus.

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

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



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Third Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to see the Savior.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

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

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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



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: Matthew 2:1-11

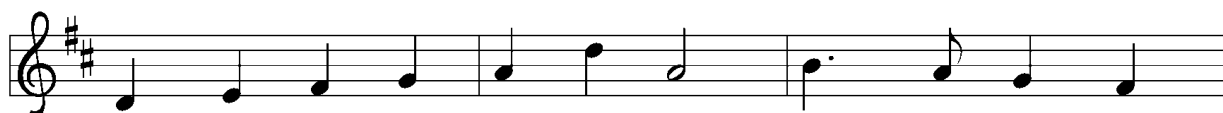
The magi follow the star.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"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."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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."

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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.



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

We stand as we are able for the final lesson.

Fifth Lesson: John 1:1-14

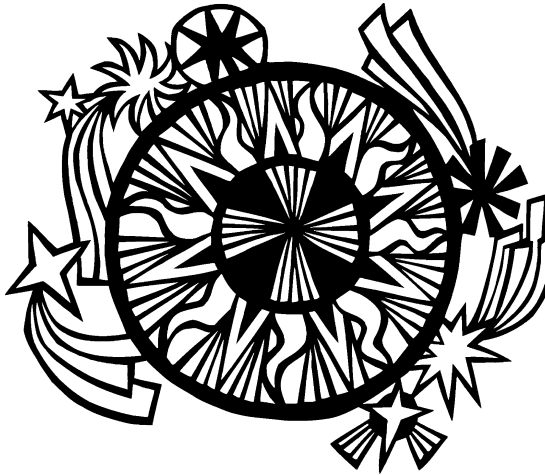
The mystery of the incarnation.

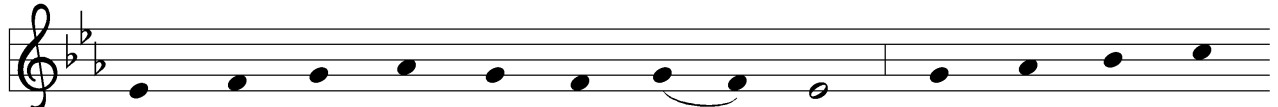
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

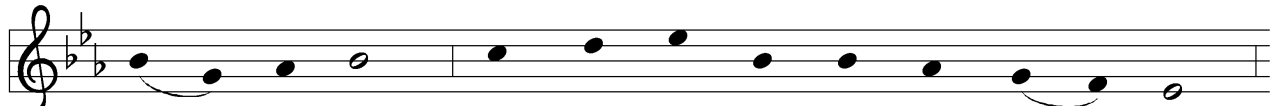
¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of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

¹⁴And 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.






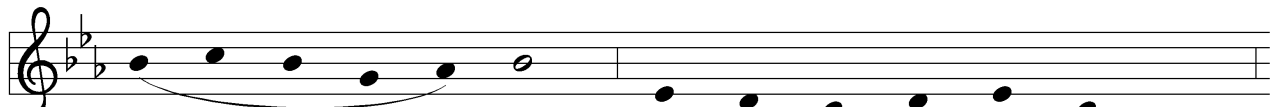
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



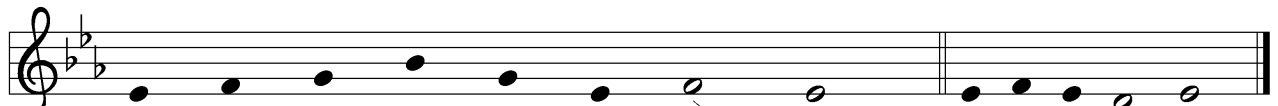
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



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 creation, 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**



THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

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

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

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

The Offering

We are seated for stanzas 1 through 3 of the offertory hymn.



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.

Offertory Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep-herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con-tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
We stand and sing stanza 4 as our gifts are brought forward.
 4. Though an in - fant now we view him, he shall fill his Fa-ther's throne,

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, ye have seen his na - tal star.
 ga - ther all the na - tions to him; ev - 'ry knee shall then bow down.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new - born King.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of heaven and earth,
C from the beginning, you have called forth life,
 in which you take delight.
 The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
 Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
 that we may join the chorus of creation
 to tell of your salvation from day to day.
 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."

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.

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 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. Merciful God,

C we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

**Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of your grace.**

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, 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

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

arr. Edwin C. Johnson

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, December 29 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, December 30	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, December 31		
Wednesday, January 1		
Thursday, January 2		
Friday, January 3	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, January 4	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, January 5 <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion



St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor

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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St. Mark's Lutheran Roanoke

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Once in Royal David's City – text: Cecil Frances Alexander.; tune: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear – text: Edmund H. Sears; tune: CAROL, Richard S. Willis.

Love Has Come – text: Ken Bible; tune: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856. Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna Music, reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729546. All rights reserved.

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

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky – text by Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, tr. Jens Christian Aaberg; tune: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th century. Text © 1951 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress, reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729546. All rights reserved.

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

Angels, from the Realms of Glory – text James Montgomery; tune: REGENT SQUARE, by Henry T. Smart.

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