



**St. Mark Lutheran**  
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

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**January 3, 2021**  
**8:15 a.m. Service**

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**WE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO THE VISITORS AND GUESTS AMONG US.  
WE PRAY THAT TODAY'S SERVICE IS A BLESSING TO YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN!**

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God.

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER:** We are celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar today. This is The Lord's Table. As a church and body of Christians we believe this:

We will be receiving the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, in, with and under, the bread and wine.

When we receive Jesus' true body and blood, we receive the forgiveness of sins.

By communing together with our Lord and one another, we express a common belief that Jesus is in truth the Son of God, and our Savior; He is present in this Sacrament in a very real way; that Christ's sacrificial death assures us of complete forgiveness of our sins; and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a life that honors God.

If you share all these convictions, then you are welcome to come and celebrate the blessings of our Altar today. Please note that cups at the center of each tray are "non-alcoholic" wine for those who prefer such for medicinal and personal reasons. Pastor Erler is available before service if you have any questions.

A **NURSERY** with an attendant is available during worship service. You are welcome to use this service. Ask an usher for directions.

### PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

#### **BEFORE WORSHIP**

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

#### **BEFORE COMMUNING**

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT**

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*(Confession and Absolution-We confess our various sins and then the minister announces the forgiveness of sins that we have in Christ. Comes from 1 John 1:8-9, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.")*

### 981 To Your Temple, Lord, I Come



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it  
2 I through Him am rec - on - ciled, I through  
3 While Your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my  
4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of



is my wor - ship home. This earth has no  
Him be - come Your child. Ab - ba, Fa - ther,  
lips, un - loose my tongue That my joy - ful  
love, to mine at - tend. Hear me, for Your



bet - ter place, Here I see my Sav - ior's face.  
give me grace In Your courts Your love to trace.  
soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righ - teous - ness.  
Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.

- 5 While I listen to Your Law,  
Fill my soul with humble awe  
Till Your Gospel bring to me  
Life and immortality.
- 6 While Your ministers proclaim  
Peace and pardon in Your name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I  
Hear You speaking from the sky.
- 7 From Your house when I return,  
May my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say,  
"I have walked with God today."

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*(Introit-is Latin for "entrance", this is where the minister moves up to the altar. The words for the Introit come from the Psalms.)*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
**glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

**his understanding is beyond measure.**

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

**in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

**Praise your God, O Zion!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

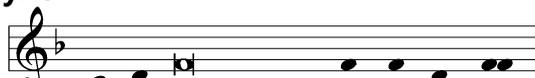
**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

**glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

# Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



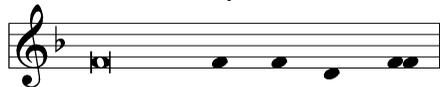
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



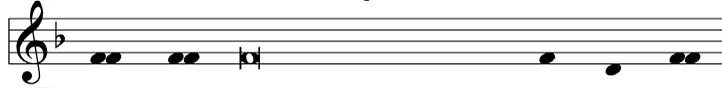
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# This Is the Feast

*Refrain*



**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

*(Salutation and Collect-Before the collect, or prayer of the day, a salutation or a wish of blessing is shared between the Pastor and congregation. 2 Timothy 4:22 "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." The collects are a collection of prayers that have been used by the church throughout the years.)*



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Please be seated*

## First Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

*(Old Testament-A reading of God's dealings with His people in the past.)*

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*(Gradual-Latin for "steps" since we are leading up to the Gospel, this is a quote from scripture.)*

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,

**for he has done marvelous things!**

## Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-14

*(Epistle—"Letter," texts taken from the various letter books of the New Testament. We remain seated during this reading because we are being instructed.)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### Common Alleluia and Verse

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40-52

*(Gospel Lesson-words of Christ or words about his life. We stand and sing the versicles which were used as passwords in the early church. Matthew 22:15-21)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## 410 Within the Father's House



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child  
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,  
4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-capes each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.  
And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.  
To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.  
And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

△6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Please stand*

## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

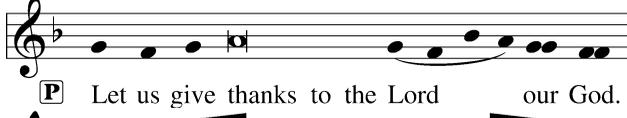
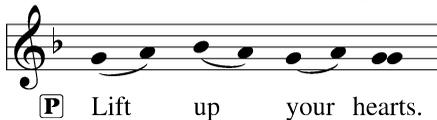
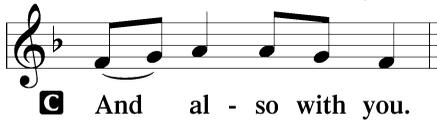
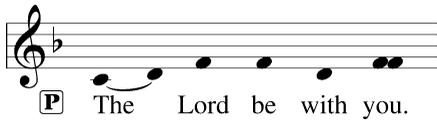
## Prayer of the Church

The Pastor will end each petition with the phrase, "Lord in your mercy."  
The Congregation will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

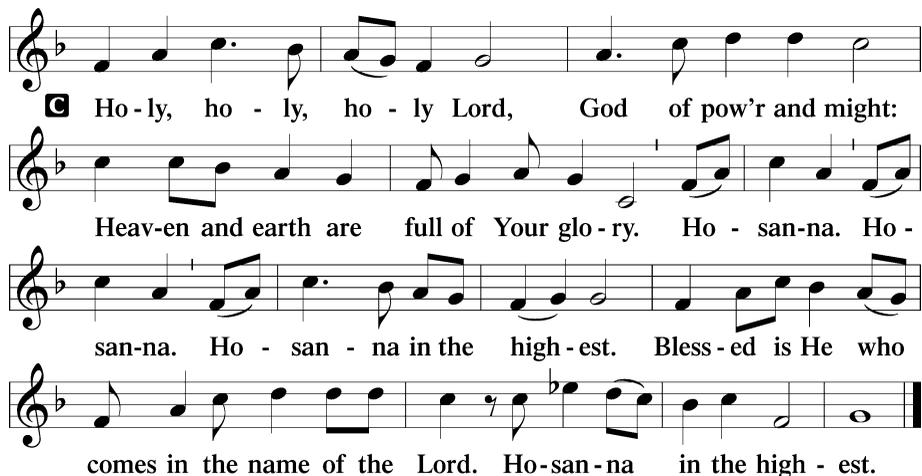
*(Preface-Sharing of the blessing and introduces us to the Eucharist, Greek for "Thanksgiving.")*



**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*(Sanctus-Latin for "holy" and comes from Is. 6:2-3 "Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" and Mt. 21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!")*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Pax Domini

*(Pax Domini-means "Peace of God." Jn. 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!")*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**G** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**G** 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.

*Please be seated*



## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

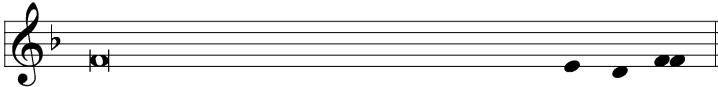
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction

*(Blessing/Benediction-is called the Aaronic Benediction, which means "to speak well" and was the blessing of Moses to Aaron. It comes from Num. 6:24-26 "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.")*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.  
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain



Three cartoon kings are depicted above the title. The king on the left has a white beard and a white turban with a red dot, holding a gold box. The middle king has a yellow crown and a red cape, holding a green gift. The king on the right has a blue turban with a red dot and a blue cape, holding a silver gift with three holes.

# EPIPHANY

O F T H E L O R D

## **Acknowledgments**

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