



**St. Mark Lutheran**  
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

**Mark Erler, Pastor**

1501 N. Bryant  
Edmond, OK 73034  
Ph: (405) 340-0192

Website: [www.stmarkedmond.org](http://www.stmarkedmond.org)

Email: [office@stmarkedmond.org](mailto:office@stmarkedmond.org)

**December 13, 2020**

**8:15 a.m. Service**

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**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.")*

### 349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: 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.)*

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

**and grant us your salvation.**

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

**that glory may dwell in our land.**

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

**and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him

**and make his footsteps a way.**

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

**and grant us your salvation.**

## Kyrie



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

## 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 also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .  
For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**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.)*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

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

*Please stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



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



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

## Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*(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. John, the first chapter.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

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

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Please stand*

## 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** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**G** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The 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."

## 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 always.

**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please be seated*

Please note:

**St. Mark Lutheran Church is a congregation and a body of Christians believing firmly God's Word which says that in Holy Communion we truly and really receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus as we receive the earthly elements of bread and wine.** His body and blood *are not symbolically present or spiritually received*, but real and tangible *in* the bread and wine, *with* the bread and wine, *under the bread and wine by the authority of Jesus' words*, and given to us as His pledge of love and forgiveness.

**Holy Communion is a gift of God intended for those who have been baptized and confirmed in the Christian Faith.** Within our Lutheran Church, we ask that a confirmation be done according to our Lutheran understanding. It is imperative, according to 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, for a communicant to spiritually examine himself before coming to the Lord's Table.

**A brief examination would include answering "Yes" to the following five questions:**

Do you believe that you are a sinner by nature and by choice?

Are you truly sorry for your sins?

Do you believe Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior from sin Who graciously forgives your sins?

Do you intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit to make the needed changes in your sinful life?

Do you believe you receive the true body and blood of Jesus in, with, and under the bread and wine?

## Distribution

*Please stand*

## Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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.

**G** Amen.

## Benedicamus

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- G** Amen.

## 921 On What Has Now Been Sown



- 1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
- 2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
- 3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text and tune: Public domain

THIRD SUNDAY IN

*Advent*



### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.