



St. Mark Lutheran

CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

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December 13, 2020
10:45 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.

Shine On Us

Words and Music by
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith

♩=72

VERSE

C F/C C Em/G F² G/B C

1. Lord, let Your light, light _ of Your face _ shine _ on _ us.
 2. Lord, let Your grace, grace _ from Your hand _ fall _ on _ us.
 3. Lord, let Your love, love _ with no end _ come _ o - ver us.

5 F/C C Em/G F² G/B C C/E

Lord, let Your light, light _ of Your face _ shine _ on _ us. That
 Lord, let Your grace, grace _ from Your hand _ fall _ on _ us. That
 Lord, let Your love, love _ with no end _ come _ o - ver us. That

9 F G/B C C/E F G/B C^{SUS} C C/E

we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our
 we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our
 we may be saved, that we may have life; To find out

13 F E/G# Am F C/G G⁷

way _ in the dark - est night, let Your light _ shine on _
 way _ in the dark - est night, let Your grace _ fall on _
 way _ in the dark - est night, let Your love _ come o - ver

16 C Am Am/G F C/G G⁷ C

us. us, let Your light _ shine on _ us.
 us.

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Please stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C **O Lord, who could stand?**

P But with You there is forgiveness;

C **therefore You are feared.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated

Because Of Your Love

Words and Music by
Paul Baloche and Brenton Brown

♩ = 126

INTRO

D/F# G² A D D/F# G² A

Yeah; _____ Yeah. _____

1. D 2. D **VERSE** D/F# G² A D

As we come in - to _ Your pres - ence, we re -

8 D/F# G² A D D/F# G² A

- mem - ber ev - 'ry bless - ing that You've poured out _ so free -

11 D/F# G² D/F# G² A

- ly from _ a - bove; _ Lift - ing grat - i - tude _ and prais -

15 D D/F# G² A D D/F# G² A

- es for com - pas - sion so _ a - maz - ing, Lord, we've come to give _ You thanks

CHORUS

19 D/F# G² D/F# G²

for all _ You've _ done. _ Be-cause of Your love, _

23 A^{sus} D/F# G² A^{sus} D/F# G²

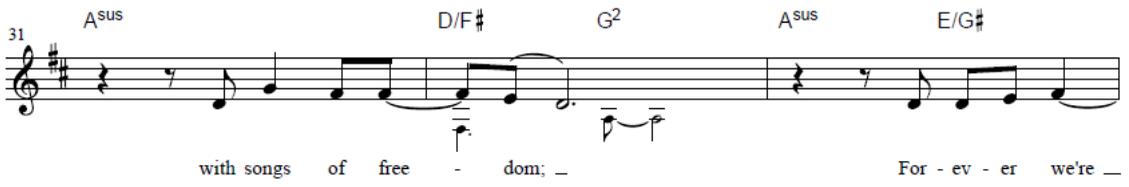
we're for - giv - en; _ Be-cause of Your love, _

27 A^{sus} D/F# G² A^{sus} D/F# G²



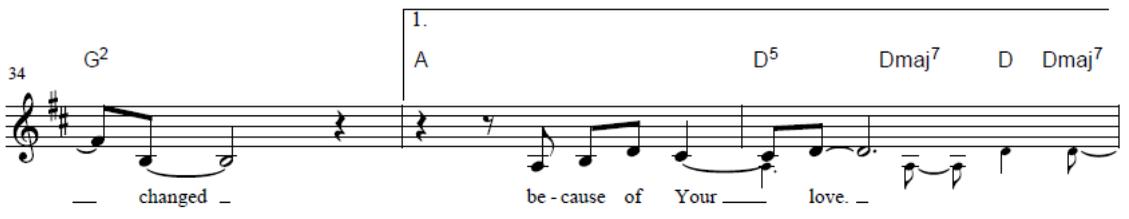
our hearts are clean; We lift You up

31 A^{sus} D/F# G² A^{sus} E/G#



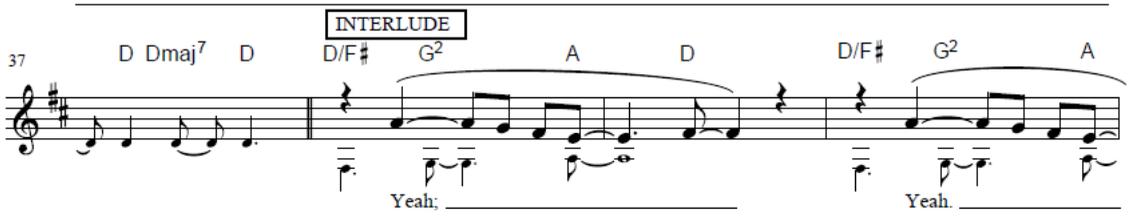
with songs of free - dom; For - ev - er we're

34 G² 1. A D⁵ Dmaj⁷ D Dmaj⁷



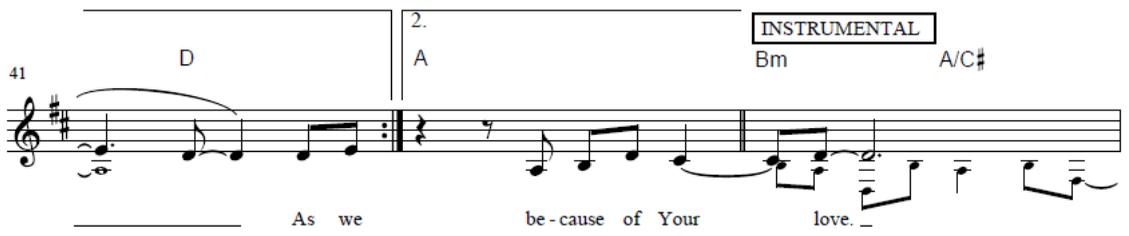
changed - be - cause of Your love.

37 D Dmaj⁷ D INTERLUDE D/F# G² A D D/F# G² A



Yeah; Yeah.

41 D 2. A INSTRUMENTAL Bm A/C#



As we be - cause of Your love.

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First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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

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

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.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

C **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.**

God With Us

Words and Music by Bart Millard,
Barry Gaul, Jim Bryson, Nathan Cochran,
Mike Scheuchzer and Robby Shaffer

VERSE 1

1. Who are we _____ that You would be mind - ful of _____ us?
What do You _____ see _____ that's worth look - ing our way? _____

VERSE 2 & 3

2. We are free _____ in ways that we
(3. Lord, You know) _____ our hearts don't de -
nev - er should _____ be: Sweet re - lease _____
-serve Your glo - ry. Still You show _____

PRE-CHORUS

from the grip of these chains. _____ Like hing - es strain - ing
a love we can - not af - ford. _____
from the _____ weight, _____ my heart _____ no long - er can keep _____ from sing - ing.

CHORUS 1a

All that _____ is _____ with - in _____ me _____ cries _____ for You _____ a - lone; _____ Be glo -

24 G/C C G

- ri - fied. Em - man - u - el, God with us.

28 G^{sus} G

My heart sings a brand new song. The

31 D G/C C

debt is paid, these chains are gone. Em - man - u - el,

34 1. G G^{sus} 2. G

God with us. 3. Lord, You know

BRIDGE

38 G^{sus} G D

Such a ti - ny of - fer - ing com - pared to Cal - va - ry;

42 C G

Nev - er - the - less, we lay it at Your feet.

46 D

Such a ti - ny of - fer - ing com - pared to Cal - va - ry;

50 C G

Nev - er - the - less, we lay it at Your feet.

CHORUS 1b

54 G D

All that is with-in me cries. For You a-lone be glo-

58 G/C C Am⁷ G

- ri - fied. Em - man - u - el, God with us.

62 G^{sus} G G^{sus} D/G C/G D/G G

My heart sings a brand new song. The

65 D

debt is paid, these chains are gone. Em - man -

67 G/C C Am⁷ G

- u - el, God with us.

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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**".

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 righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

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.

Words of Institution

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

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray...Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the Day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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 Amen.

Whom Shall I Fear God Of Angel Armies

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Scott Cash

♩ = 75 **VERSE 1**

G Am⁷ G/B C²

1. You hear me when I call. You are my morn-ing song. Though dark-ness fills the night,

4 Em⁷ C²

it can-not hide the light. Whom shall I fear?

7 G Am⁷ G/B C²

You crush the en - e - my un - der-neath my feet. You are my sword and shield,

10 Em⁷ C²

though trou-bles lin - ger still. Whom shall I fear?

§ **CHORUS 1a**

13 Em⁷ D G Em⁷ D G Em⁷ C²

I know Who goes be-fore me, I know Who stands be-hind: The God of an - gel ar-mies

16 D G Em⁷ D G

is al - ways by my side! The One Who reigns for - ev - er,

18 Em⁷ D G Em⁷ C² 2nd time to Coda Φ D

He is a friend of mine. The God of an - gel ar-mies is al-ways by my

VERSE 2

21 G G

side! 2. My strength is in Your name, for You a-lone can save.

25 C² Em⁷

You will de-liv-er me. Yours is the vic-to-ry. Whom shall I

28 C² Em⁷ C² D D.S. al Coda

— fear? Whom shall I — fear? —

BRIDGE

⊕ Coda

31 G C² G D

side! And noth-ing formed a-gainst me shall stand! —

34 G C² G

You hold the whole world in Your hands. I'm hold-ing on to Your

37 Em⁷ D C² I. D

prom-is-es; You are faith-ful, You are faith-ful.

40 2. D Em⁷ D/F#

faith-ful, You are faith-ful.

CHORUS 1b

43 Em7 D G Em7 D G Em7 C2

I know Who goes be-fore me, I know Who stands be-hind: The God of an-gel ar-mies

46 D G Em7 D/F# G Em7 D G

is al-ways by my side! The One Who reigns for - ev - er, He is a friend of mine.

CHORUS 1c

49 Em7 C2 G

The God of an-gel ar-mies is al-ways by my side! I know Who goes be-fore me, -

52 D/F# Em7 C2

I know Who stands be-hind: The God of an-gel ar-mies is al-ways by my side!

55 G D/F# Em7

The One Who reigns for - ev - er, - He is a friend of mine. The God of an-gel ar-mies

58 C2 Em7 C2 G

is al-ways by my side! The God of an-gel ar-mies is al-ways by my side!

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THIRD SUNDAY IN

Advent



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