St. Mark Lutheran
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church · **Rev. Mark Erler**
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December 18, 2022
10:45 a.m. Service

FOURTH 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 in celebration of Charles & Merle Wagner's anniversary.

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.

Come Now is The Time to Worship

Words and Music by
Brian Doerksen

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Please stand

℗ In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
© **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

℗ If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
© **O Lord, who could stand?**

℗ But with You there is forgiveness;
© **therefore You are feared.**

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

℗ O almighty God, merciful Father,
© **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

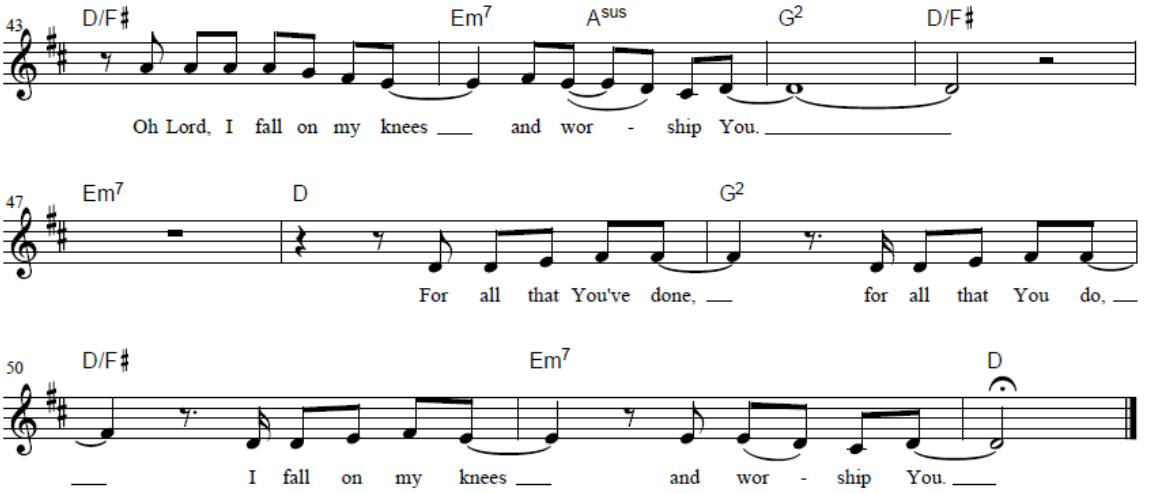
℗ Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
© **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Least I Can Do

Words and Music by
Mark Roach

Last time to Coda
1.
D.S.
2.
D.S. al Coda
Coda
19
22
25
28
30
32
36
39
Em7
Asus
G2
D/F♯
Bm7
and wor - ship You.
3. You formed ev - 'ry crea -
I will wor - ship You, Lord, all of my days. You are wor -
- thy, Lord, of in - fi - nite praise. Oh, You saved me, Lord, in spite
of my ways. It's a debt I can nev - er re - pay.
4. You gave Your life
For all that You've done, for all that You do,
for all that is beau - ti - ful, all that is true, for sav - ing my life,
the least I can do is fall on my knees and wor - ship You.



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Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 7:10-17*

The Sign of Immanuel

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep
as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD
to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary
men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He
shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.
16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land
whose two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The LORD will bring upon you and upon
your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day
that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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 *Romans 1:1-7*

Greeting

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of
God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,
3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was
declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his
resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received
grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name
among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 1:18-25*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[18]Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had
been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child
from the Holy Spirit. [19]And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put
her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20]But as he considered these things,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of
David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from
the Holy Spirit. [21]She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save
his people from their sins." [22]All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by
the prophet:

[23]"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). [24]When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of
the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25]but knew her not until she had given
birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

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

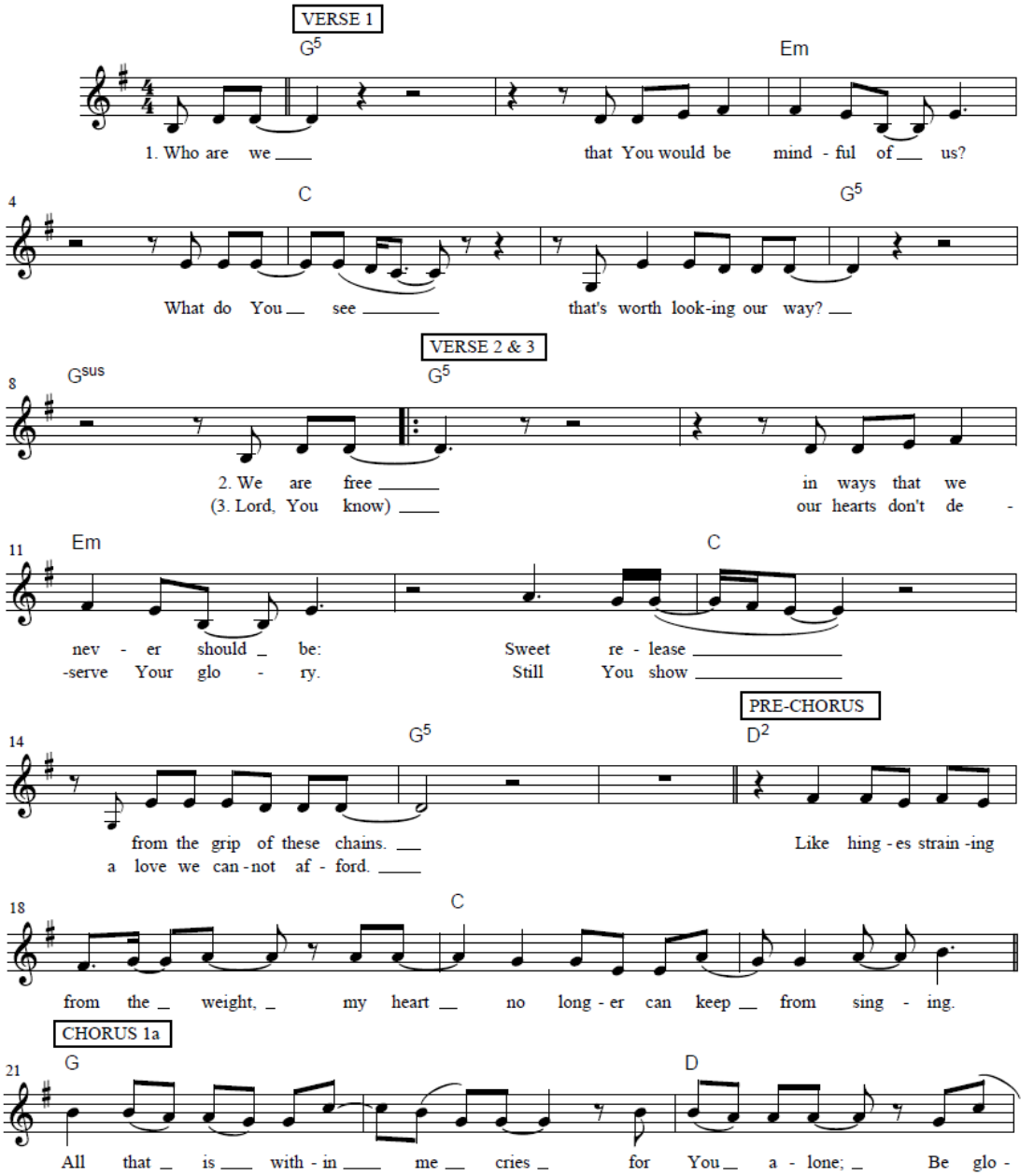
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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.

Please be seated

God With Us

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



24
G/C
C
G
- ri - fied. _ Em - man - u - el, __
God _ with us. _____
28
Gsus
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
Gsus
2.
G
God _ with _ us. ___
3. Lord, You know _ ____
BRIDGE
38
Gsus
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. _____

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Sermon

Offering

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 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

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.

Words of Institution

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?

Please be seated

Distribution

Grace Like Rain

Words and Music by
Chris Collins, Edwin Othello Excell and John Newton

1.
INSTRUMENTAL
23
D
A
Bm
G
D
are washed a - way they're washed a - way.
2.
INTERLUDE
28
A
A
Bm
G
Bm
G
2. 'Twas grace they're washed a - way. Yeah.
32
Bm
G
Bm
G
Bm
A/C♯
D
Em
D
Em
VERSE 3
37
Bm7/F♯
Em
G
Bm
G
3. When we've been there ten thou-
41
D
A
Bm
G
- sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,
45
D
A
Bm
G
we've no less days to sing
49
D
A
Bm
G
Your praise, than when we'd first be - gun.

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Please stand

Post-Communion Collect

P 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 **Amen.**

Benediction

P 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.**

Our God

Words and Music by
Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin,
Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves

29
Em
C
G
Our God is heal - er,
awe-some in pow - er, our _ God, __
our _ God. _
1.
INSTRUMENTAL
2.
32
Dsus
Em
C
G
Dsus
Dsus
D.S.
3.
INSTRUMENTAL
38
Dsus
Em
C
41
G
Dsus
Em
44
C
G
Dsus
BRIDGE 1
47
Em
C
G
And if our God is for us
then who could ev - er stop us,
and if our God is with us
50
Dsus
Em
C
then what could stand a - gainst? ___
And if our God is for us
then who could ev - er stop us,

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