

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

To know Christ and to make Christ known.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

AN ORDER FOR HOLY COMMUNION SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

DECEMBER 24, 2025

7:00PM



Order of Service

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission: To know Christ and to make Christ Known

THE PRELUDE

Linus & Lucy
Skating
O Tannenbaum

Vince Guaraldi

with Colton Taylor, bass

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAROL

The Congregation stands



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Music, FELIX MENDELSSOHN
Text, CHARLES WESLEY

THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Christ is born! Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

***Congregation* And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray.
Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***Congregation* Amen.**

(The Congregation may be seated)

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

When 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.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

REMARKS

PASTOR BRIAN VASEY

CAROL

The Congregation stands



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Tune, ST. LOUIS
 Music, LEWIS H. REDNER
 Text, PHILLIPS BROOKS

THE NICENE CREED

Pastor Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

Congregation We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(after each petition)

Pastor Hear us, O God.

Congregation Your mercy is great.

THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Congregation And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and gestures of peace.

(The Congregation may be seated following the peace)

ANTHEM

WHEN blossoms flowered amid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars
The exultation voiced:
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its king of Love and Light.
Let every voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth
He came that we with Him might dwell.
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Megan Louder, soprano

Text, FREDERICK H. MARTENS
Music, PIETRO A. YON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Congregation stands

Pastor The Lord be with you

Congregation **And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

Congregation **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

THE PREFACE

Pastor It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh, you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

WOV Setting V

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

Congregation 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 AGNUS DEI

WOV Setting V



☞ 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, grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
 come, see what God makes known for you.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

(The Congregation may be seated)

CAROL



- 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
- 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
- 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, all for to see the new - born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

Tune, SUSSEX CAROL
Music, ENGLISH TRADITIONAL
Text, LUKE WADDING, D. 1686

AFTER COMMUNION

The Congregation stands

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Congregation Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of
grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us
forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good
news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

Congregation Amen.

THE CANDLELIGHTING

Pastor Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold,
darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness the people;
but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory will be seen
through you.

Congregation Amen.

(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor. Remember to keep your candles upright and burning until the conclusion of Joy to the World, raising your candle high on verse 4.)

CAROL

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Tune, STILLE NACHT
 Music, FRANZ GRUBER
 Text, JOSEPH MOHR

THE BLESSING

Pastor May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

AT THE SENDING

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Tune, ANTIOCH
Music, LOWELL MASON
Text, ISAAC WATTS

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Congregation Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on Hark the Herald Angels Sing

18TH CENTURY ENGLISH CAROL
ARR. PAUL FEY

WORSHIP LEADERS, 7 p.m.
Communion Assistants: Shelby & Gary Weber
Organist: Samuel Robinson
Ushers: Matt Fortin and Mel Wentzel

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THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S NATIVITY CONTINUES
Sunday, December 28, Christmas Sunday, Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m

The Church Office will be closed December 25 through January 3.

If you are in need of a pastor,
please call Pastor Carol Johnson at (570)772-6674

**BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2026!**

-PASTOR VASEY & FAMILY!

IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS WE COMMEMORATE:

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Friday, December 26, 2025

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday, December 27, 2025

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Sunday, December 28, 2025

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus

Thursday, January 1, 2026

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Friday, January 2, 2026

Loeche was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND IN MEMORY OF

Forrest and Margaret Klinger, by Ron and Donna Baker

Francis Bigelow, my husband, by Ruth Ann Bigelow

James Buckman, husband, by Debra Buckman

Eugene and Reba Jacobs, by Linda Rosini and Dr. John and Holly
Carson

Janet Romanelli and Peter Romanelli, and Paul Freeman, by Megan
Cartwright

Shirley & Bob Campbell, by their children

Bob and Shirley Miller, our parents, and grandparents, by Bill, Dick
and Barb Cooley

Jack and Margaret Dewar, by Steve and Candy Dewar

Our father, Francis Bigelow, and our mother, Judith Fortin, by Matt
and Wanda Fortin

Robert Emerson Furman, by Theresa Furman

Edward Sr. and Mary Gair, by Edward and Brenda Gair

Roxanna Larson, our aunt, from her nieces and nephews, by Roxie
Gohrig

Beryl Howard, by her daughter, Roxie Gohrig

Lawrence and Luella Bair, and James and Virginia Huff, our parents,
by Ray and Cindy Huff

Edwin Jackson, and Jerry Splain, by Brian and Nikki Jackson

Ray Kinney, our father, and Carol Smith, our mother, by Mike and
Jackie Kinney

Helen and William Kennedy, Anna and Robert Kuntz, and Marty
Kuntz, by Charles and Ann Kuntz

Don and Helen Ochs, by Jay Michael Ochs

Jack and Eleanor Whiting, by Steve and Candy Dewar and Herb Poff

Bill and Prudy Poff, by Steve and Candy Dewar and Herb Poff

Gwyn Marie Rees, Lisa Marie Rees, and parents, Ruth and Harry
Ulmer, by Ruth Rees

Charlotte Reitz, my wife, by Richard Reitz

PAUL Edward Robinson, by Samuel Robinson
Our loved ones, by Vernon and Carol Schwanger
Our parents, by Phil and Barb Thomas
Bob Todd, my husband, and Margaret Thomas, my mother, by Cindy
Todd
Josephine and Allen Malick, and Judy and Phillip Williams, by Dave
and Cheryl Williams
Loved Ones, by the Zeigler family
Peter Zeigler, by his family

AND IN HONOR OF

Ren Holohan, great granddaughter, by Debra Buckman
Judy Jackson, and Jackie Wertman, by Brian and Nikki Jackson
Grant Rees, and the Haussmann Family, by Ruth Rees
Our children and grandchildren, by Phil and Barb Thomas
Rebecca, Ryan, Anna, and Adam Pritchard, my wonderful family, by
Cindy Todd
Stefan and Riley, our sons, and Ruth and Gloria, our mothers, by
Gary and Shelby Weber

AND FOR LOCAL HUNGER

In memory of Bonnie Gray and Ned Earnest, by Becky Miller Pryor



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