

We wish to acknowledge and honor the Anigiduwagi, more commonly known as the Cherokee peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this evening, as well as our Indigenous siblings who have cared for and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

10 North Liberty Street · Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone (828) 253-0043 · [www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://www.stmarkslutheran.net)

### Ministers

The People of God at St. Mark's

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# The Nativity of Our Lord

7:00 & 10:00 pm · December 24, 2021



## Welcome!

We're glad you are here. All of the hymns and readings are in this bulletin; the congregation is asked to read the portions of the service printed in bold. The sanctuary is equipped with a T-Coil Loop to aid those with hearing difficulties. Headsets for those without T-Coil equipped hearing aids are available from ushers upon request.

All children are welcome and valued during worship! As you face the altar, the door on the front left leads to a nursery for children under 4. The door on the front right leads to restrooms that include changing tables. There are activity and coloring bags near both entrances to the sanctuary for children to use during the service.

## Prelude Music

**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, arranged by J. S. Bach** Organ

This sprightly arrangement of Martin Luther's Christmas hymn (#268 in the hymnal) uses fragments of the melody in the hands, and the full melody in the feet.

**The Coventry Carol, arranged by Zack Smith** Brass Quintet

The origin of this carol is an English mystery play from the 1500s. Mystery plays were an early form of European drama, presenting Biblical stories with song.

**Gesu Bambino, arranged by Gary Slechta** Brass Quintet

Pietro Yon was a popular Italian-born organist and composer who spent most of his career in the United States. He wrote this song in 1917.

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, arranged by Charles Evans** Brass Quintet

This is a traditional Polish Christmas carol, taking its rhythm from the mazurka, a Polish country dance. The words may be found in our hymnal at #276.

**Once in Royal David's City, arranged by Lloyd Larson** Brass Quintet

Irish poet Cecil Frances Alexander published this text in 1848 in a collection titled "Hymns for Little Children," the profits of which helped her establish a school for the deaf.

**Silent Night, arranged by Wilfred Bob Roberts** Brass Quintet

Yes, the story is true: the organ at St. Nikolaus Church in Oberndorf was broken on Christmas Eve, 1818. Assistant priest Joseph Mohr wrote this next, and gave it to the parish organist, Franz Gruber. Priest, musician, and choir sang it that evening accompanied by guitar, and it has been with us ever since!

**Prepare the Royal Highway, arranged by Hal Hopson** Festival Choir

This joyful Scandinavian hymn by Franz Mikael Franzen (1772-1847) would be almost as appropriate for Palm Sunday as it is for Advent and Christmas! The words may be found at #264 in the hymnal.

**Manger Carol, arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen** Festival Choir

This arrangement combines two tunes that are traditionally associated with the text "Away in a Manger," the first by William Kirkpatrick and the second by James Murray (sometimes erroneously attributed to Martin Luther).

**Give Me Oil in My Lamp, arranged by Mark Arnold** Celebration Handbells

You may remember this jaunty song from Bible school, or from a 1969 b-side by The Byrds. It is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids in Matthew 25: 1-13.

**O Come, Christmas Joy, arranged by Linda Lamb** Celebration Handbells

This arrangement combines "O Come, All Ye Faithful" with a lesser-known German Christmas carol, "How Great Our Joy."



## Christmas Poinsettias

Given to the Glory of God by

Bill and Karla Trexler, in memory of Bernard and Dorthy Trexler  
Bill and Karla Trexler, in honor of St. Mark's outstanding staff  
Eric and Susan Van Tassel, in memory of their Parents  
Eric and Susan Van Tassel, in memory of their Parents  
Vic and Mary Anne Allwein, in memory of Vic and Teresa Allwein  
Vic and Mary Anne Allwein, in memory of Homer and Erma Dice  
Susan Denne & James Aydelotte, in honor of Eric Van Tassel  
Ken Clark, in memory of Barb Clark  
Ken Clark, in memory of Aaron Hirsch  
Vickie Hauser, in memory of Ed Hauser  
Warren & Bonnie Wheeler, in memory of Howard & Joy Hunter  
Warren & Bonnie Wheeler, in memory of Bud & Ellen Wheeler  
Anne B, in memory of Pete Blackwell, Helen and Gene Blackwell and Nell and Felix Potts  
Anne B, in honor all of our children, grand children, and great-grand children  
Connie Chaplin, in honor of Ellie & Derek Masson (Grandchildren)  
Deanna Jordan, in memory of her husband Corky Jordan  
Bob Mihara, in memory of Mary Carolyn Mihara  
Norm & Bonnie Richards, in memory of Jane Webb & Estelle La Rue  
Roy & Donna Turnbaugh, in memory of our grandparents  
Roy & Donna Turnbaugh, in memory of our parents  
Judy McKay, in honor of her grandchildren Iona, Annika, and Alexandria



## Announcements

**Thank you** to all the musicians of the Sonrise Singers, Chancel Choir, and Celebration Handbell Ringers for leading us in worship this morning. If you are interested in participating in music at St. Mark's, please talk to Cantor David — he doesn't bite.

**Thank you** to our brass quintet: John Entzi and Steve Martinez, trumpets; Anthony Ammons, horn; Bob Gregory, trombone; Carter Hinckle, tuba.

The church office will be closed on December 24th, 27th, 28th, and 31st.  
Faith Formation will resume on Sunday, January 9th.

Faith and Fellowship on December 27th will be cancelled January 3rd.  
Property Day on December 29th will be cancelled and resume on January 5th.

Still want to support the ministry of St. Mark's with a 2021 financial contribution? Please make sure to deliver your check to the church office or have it postmarked by Dec. 30 (no mail on Dec 31). Please use our physical address of 10 N. Liberty St. Asheville, NC 28801 for all mailing purposes as the old PO box address will only be active for a few more months.

### ABCCM Volunteer Needed

We are in need of someone to make weekly runs to ABCCM. This would mean that each week you would check the donation bins downstairs and bring anything in them to the ABCCM Crisis Ministry on Cumberland Avenue in Montford (10 Minutes from church). While you are there, you would "shop" in their pantry for sandwich supplies which you would then drop off in the church kitchen. This can be done any day of the week! Becky Sachsenmaier has been filling this role but will be traveling for a few months and needs someone to help while she is away. If you are interested, please reach out to Becky at 828.333.1539.

### Giving for Tornado Relief

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most where first responders are still searching for survivors. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.

The ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the best ways to help those impacted by recent tornadoes. 100% of collected funds will go to assist those affected by tornadoes. If you would like to help financial, you can donate at [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)

### Worship Words

Even if you've been coming to church since before you can remember, the terms that Christians use can seem like a foreign language (hint: sometimes they are). Beginning January 9, 2022, join Cantor David at 9:45 am for a four-week exploration of the weird and wonderful words associated with the church. Whether you already know your Mags and Nuncs, or couldn't pick out a ciborium in a sea of chalices, everyone is guaranteed to (probably) learn something new!

## Entrance Hymn

## "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*  
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

### Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only son from God the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all the people.**

### Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the one 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Children's Sermon (7:00 only)

**Pastor Matt Smith**

### First Lesson

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Lesson

**Titus 2:11-14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Candlelighting

*To avoid wax spills, please tip your unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor's candle. Please help and supervise young children.*

### Announcements and Dismissal

As heralds of God's peace,

go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

**"The First Noel" Brass Quintet, arr. Gary Slechta**

## Worship Assistants

7:00 pm

10:00 pm

### Ushers

Ronnie Shoe  
Josh Kersey  
Jason Jones  
Nancy Dodenhoff

Alice Silver  
Mike Bradley

### Greeters

Vic Allwein  
Mary Anne Allwein

Dave Epley  
Anne Blackwell

### Assisting Minister

Deacon Katie Rivers

### Lay Reader

James Aydelotte

Dave Epley

### Communion Assistants

Susan Denne  
Mary Anne Allwein

Bonnie Richards  
Diane Hughes

### Acolytes

Eileen Cram

Eileen Cram

### Crucifers

Christian Wikoff

Cord Doss

### Torch Bearers

Jamie Rhodes  
Julia Rhodes

Ryan Hutson  
Trey Doss

### Altar Guild

Bonnie Morris  
Gerri Hill

Bonnie Richards  
Diane Hughes

### Bible Bearers

Mary Brady

Mary Brady

**Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**“Joy to the World”**

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Christ -  
 mas  
 Poinset -  
 tias

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**Hymn**

**“Silent Night”**

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 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,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 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,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 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

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Hymn

“Love Has Come”



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Communion Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## Communion Blessing

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

**Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Proclamation

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you!

*Please extinguish your candles at this time  
 and place them in the baskets at the end of your pew.*

Hymn of Praise

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 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.”  
 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;  
 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!”  
 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!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Sermon

Deacon Katie Rivers

*Silence for meditation follows the sermon.*

Hymn of the Day

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,  
 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621



## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to you will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let every heart prepare him room.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. We celebrate open communion with all baptized Christians and we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine.*

## Agnus Dei

**"Lamb of God"**



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

## Nicene Creed

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

### Peace

### Offering



*Your gifts to St. Mark's Lutheran Church make this ministry in the name of Christ possible! Thank you for your support. Remember, funds must be received by the church office by December 31 to be credited to 2020 statements, but you can always catch up on your pledges and offerings with an online gift! Visit [stmarkslutheranchurch.net](http://stmarkslutheranchurch.net) and click on "Donate," or scan the code to the left.*

## Anthem

**Christ is Born**

**arranged by Marion Vree**

*This is an arrangement of the popular 18th century French carol "Il Est Ne, le divin enfant." The musette, referenced in the refrain, is a courtly bagpipe from the French Renaissance, because nothing says Christmas like bagpipes.*

Christ is born, the Holy Child! Play the musette, the tuneful oboe.  
He is born the Holy Child, Christ the Lord is born today!

On a manger bed He lay, in a stable, cold and bare;  
On a manger bed He lay, kneel before the Child today.

Ah, what beauty to behold! See Him there, the Divine Christ Child.  
Ah, what beauty to behold! Glows so softly with light divine.

Offertory Response

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Good and loving God,  
**we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor  
 to bring the riches of your grace. Bless the gifts we offer this day,  
 and let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field,  
 with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son.  
 Amen.**

Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n 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.