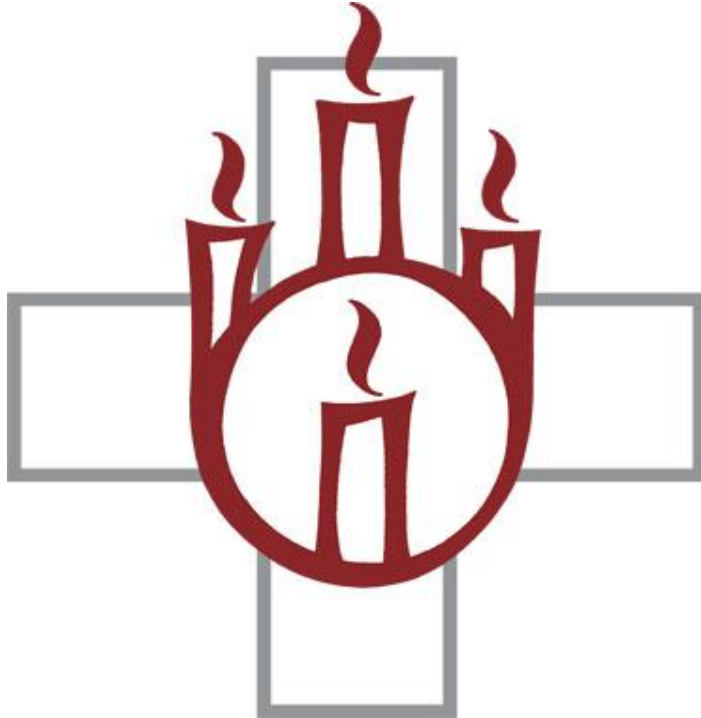


CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for December 1, 2024



**GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELST[†]NorCal **Ministry** ... Other Area Locations
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries

1st Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

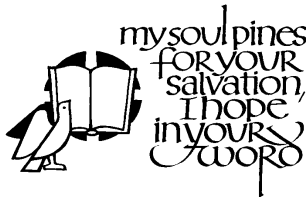
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

LARGE PRINT copies of the Service can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Dark Blue (2021) /
'Christian Worship Supplement' (blue soft cover)*

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksch; Follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: If there is a storm coming in or a fire burning within view, what do we have a tendency to do? We keep an eye on it. Why? So we can be ready to act and avoid property damage or harm to life. Jesus tells us this world is in decay mode, and so He also tells us to keep watch. Why? So this decay will not harm us. This is what He wants us to pray about as well, for ourselves and for others. Good idea, then, to keep watch and to pray as we do that.

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

Johann R. Ahle

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

(Ps 84)

C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD.

M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

C: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

M: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

C: O LORD Almighty, blessed are they who trust in you.

M: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

C: Let us worship Him.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 4

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Christian Worship Red # 221

**Blessed Jesus, at your Word We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing your praises yonder.**

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

C: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

(1 John 4)

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD *(no musical introduction)*



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

M: We pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins;
C: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16

God keeps His promises concerning salvation and deliverance.

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’”

M: The Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Christian Worship Red # 23

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
 From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Here is encouragement to remain blameless before God. This is how to do that.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Musical Introduction



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

Be careful to not let the cares of this life keep you from staying focused on Christ.

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will

never pass away. ³⁴“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Musical Introduction

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Christian Worship Red # 18

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.**

**Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!**

**Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.**

**Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.**

**He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Luke 21:25-36

“Watch And Pray”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – FROM THE NICENE CREED

**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 fully 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. Amen.**

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the "Resources" tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy on behalf of your people.

C: We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who has ascended into heaven and sits at your right hand.

M: We rejoice in the knowledge that he is our advocate before your throne and that he intercedes for us in all our needs.

C: Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truths.

M: Give to all who serve your holy Church a full measure of your grace that Christ may be confessed, his cross uplifted, and his gospel declared as the only way to eternal life. Bless all parents that they may be wholesome examples to their children.

C: May they teach their children to love you, to practice virtue, to desire to pursue instruction in your Word, and to serve your Church and all people.

M: Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted. In the quiet hour of the night, when they are weighed down with pain, loneliness, and anxiety, bring them strength and hope by assuring them that your love endures, your power overcomes, and your presence remains constant.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As we leave this hour of worship, we give all glory to Jesus.

C: To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. Amen.

And we also pray ...

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*The Ushers will direct Communicants by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Communion Assistant. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be placed on the backside of the Rail. **If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west (Pulpit) side, right to left.** When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher or the Pastor know of this.*

As a reminder: Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members and those who spoke with the Pastor ahead of time partake of the Sacrament. In the future, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor following the Service / during the week.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction

Take and Eat

Christian Worship Supplement # 741

741

Take and Eat

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you. *Last time*

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the Shep - herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest.
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride - groom, this my wed - ding song.

To Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

Martin Luther reminds us in his Small Catechism that the power of the Sacrament is not our "eating and drinking . . . but the words 'Given' and 'poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" This hymn underscores the powerful and creative Word of our Savior.

Text (refrain): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Text (verses): James Quinn, S. J., b. 1919 © James Quinn, S. J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc. North American agent.
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 Tune: TAKE AND EAT (10 10 10 10 and Refrain) Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

Christian Worship Red # 455

**Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you,
For Satan has designed your fall.
Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious;
Against each foe you'll be victorious;
Our God will set you o'er them all.
Fear not the prince of hell—
Here is Immanuel! Sing hosanna!
The strong ones yield To Christ, our shield,
And we as conqu'rors hold the field.**

**Jesus, all your children cherish,
And keep them that they never perish
Whom you have purchased with your blood.
Let new life to us be given
That we may look to you in heaven
Whenever fearful is our mood.
Your Spirit on us pour
That we may love you more,
Hearts o'erflowing; And then shall we,
From sin set free, Sing praise through all eternity.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake! (Rise to Arms)

Johann Gottfried Walther

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

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Scripture Quotations: From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

1st: Recall the context of Jeremiah's words, what was happening to OT Israel. What is the significance of that which the Lord is promising to do? Read Colossians 1:21-23.

2nd: Where does the love talked about here need to 'increase' in your life? What are some things you pray about? Read Colossians 2:6-8.

3rd: Advent has two themes: Why are both appropriate to focus on at the same time? List all the encouragements Jesus makes in this section. Which one hits home at this time? Read Colossians 4:2-6.

Purpose Of Advent Candles

*December brings a new Church Year starting with Advent, and also a new Series of Sunday Bible Readings based on the Gospel of Luke with a few Sundays throughout the year featuring one of the other Gospels. Then there are the **Advent candles and wreath**. The Advent wreath and the candles are for the purpose of preparation and focus, focusing our minds and hearts on the true meaning of Christmas. The **first** candle (blue) is the prophecy candle (candle of hope), symbolizing the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Savior (Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 15:12-13). The **second** candle (blue) is the Bethlehem candle (candle of preparation), symbolizing the coming on earth of Jesus (Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:4-6). The **third** candle (pink) is the Shepherd candle (candle of joy), symbolizing the coming of the Savior into our hearts and life through the Word (Jeremiah 23:3-8; Luke 2:7-15). The **fourth** candle (blue) is the Angel candle (candle of love), symbolizing the final coming of the Savior in glory for the judgment (Isaiah 9:1-6; Luke 2:10b-11). The **fifth** candle (white) is the Christ candle, symbolizing the fulfillment of prophecy concerning Jesus the Savior (John 1:29).*

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today	8:00 & 10:45 9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	LWMS Mission Box Offering Worship Service with Holy Communion Bible Study Jesus Cares Worship Advent by Candlelight
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	GriefShare # 13 Board of Child Discipleship
Wednesday	8:20 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	School Chapel Service Advent Supper Advent Worship Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study Digging Deeper Class
Friday	7:30 p.m.	River City Chorale Performance
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Nativity Walk Thru Event
Sunday	8:00 & 10:45 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Nick Bastiao	<i>Dec 2</i>	
Sarah Vosberg	<i>Dec 3</i>	
Terry Drennon	<i>Dec 5</i>	
Gail Verthein	<i>Dec 6</i>	
Ruth Vogt		
Robert Vosberg	<i>Dec 7</i>	



Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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