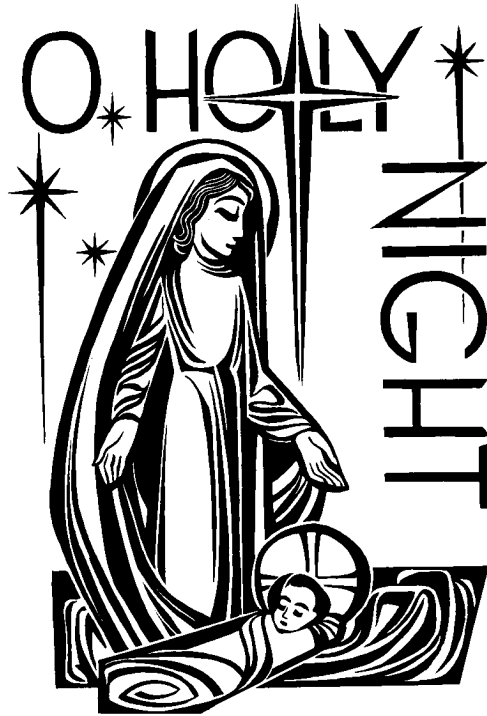


# CELEBRATING THE PROMISES OF GOD

December 24, 2024 ... 5:00 PM



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

**We are St. Mark's Church & School**

A WELST<sup>†</sup>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*

# Christmas Eve --- Peace & Joy

December 24, 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:

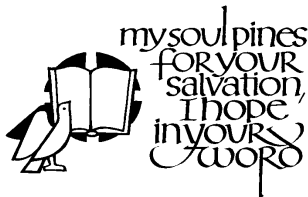
Members & Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a blue **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the Thank Offering Box which are on the Lobby walls as you enter the worship area or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> 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](https://facebook.com/stmarksch); Follow us on Instagram: [Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran](https://Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran); Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: [vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch](https://vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch).

**“But when the time had fully come ...” Galatians 4  
“A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” Luke 2**

**PRESERVICE**

**Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child**

*Arr by Lani Smith*

**Post-Preservice Songs** (*accepella*)

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.*

---

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*(Women) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*(Men) No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.*

**PEACE ON EARTH ... IT IS POSSIBLE ...**

*A Christmas Greeting*

**HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*Christian Worship Red # 61*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
(Refrain) *Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”***

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

**Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

Minister: We worship this Christmas Eve in the name of the Triune God -

**Congregation: The Father, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier.**

M: Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world,

**C: The light no darkness can overcome.**

M: Let Your light scatter the darkness.

**C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

**On Christmas Night All Christians Sing**

*Christian Worship Red # 52*

Women sing **bold** type --- Men sing *italic* type

**On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring**  
*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring*  
**News of great joy, news of great mirth**  
*News of our merciful King’s birth.*

**When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place**  
*When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place*  
**Angels and saints with joy may sing**  
*All for to see the newborn King.*

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night**

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:*

*(all sing)*

**“Glory to God and peace to men**

*(all sing)*

**Now and forevermore. Amen.”**

M: Jesus, whose birth we are celebrating, has said through His Apostle John:

**C: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

M: Jesus knew why He had come to earth. The Evangelist Luke records:

**C: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.**

M: We have reason indeed to celebrate this evening. Peace has come. Peace through Jesus.

**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.**

## **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

## **Salvation unto Us Has Come**

*Christian Worship Red # 390*

**Salvation unto us has come By God’s free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is the one Redeemer.**

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by his grace – All glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav’n above, You have revealed your saving love;  
Your blessed name be hallowed!**

## **A Reading from Holy Scripture ... Isaiah 9:2-7**

## **Jesus offers needed peace and justice**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup>Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN***Musical Introduction***Once in Royal David's City***Christian Worship Red # 50*

**Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**But our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love,  
For that child, so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above,  
As he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars his children crowned, All in white, his praise will sound.**

**A Reading from Holy Scripture ... 1 John 4:9-14****Loved to love: Merry Christmas**

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. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. <sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.****CHOIR****Carols Around (And a Round)***Arr by Carl J Nygard Jr © 1984 by Hinshaw Music Co, Inc*

*Dona nobis pacem, pacem  
The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old, of old.  
From angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold.*

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
They looked up and saw a star shining in the east  
beyond them far.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

*Away in a manger, so crib for a bed.  
Away in a manger, on Christmas day,  
On Christmas day.  
The world in solemn stillness lay.  
Amen, Amen, Amen.*

### **A Reading from Holy Scripture ... Luke 2:1-20**

### **Jesus is our light who brings peace**

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup>**"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"** <sup>15</sup>So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Christian Worship Red # 63*

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

<sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **PEACE ... PEACE ... PEACE**

Focus on the Scriptures ... based on 1 John 4 ...  
“God Loves You”

### **HYMN**

*Musical Introduction*

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

*Christian Worship Red # 57*

*Refrain* **Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev’rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.** *Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth.** *Refrain*

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.** *Refrain*

## **JOY ... JOY ... JOY**

### **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.*

### **RESPONSIVE SENTENCES**

M: Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

*(Ps 96)*

**C: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**



M: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

**C: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;**

M: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

**C: for he comes to judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

M: Sing to the LORD,

**C: Praise his name.**

*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.**

M: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: His light to guide us, His presence to shelter us, His peace to unite us.

**C: Amen.**

**CHOIR**

**Silent Night! Holy Night**

*Arr by Ruth Elaine Schram © 2015 Choristers Guild*

*Silent night, holy night!*

*All is calm, all is bright.*

*Round yon virgin mother and Child.*

*Holy Infant, so tender and mild,*

*Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!*

*Shepherds quake at the sight.*

*Glories stream from heaven afar,*

*As the heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"*

*Christ, the Savior is born, He is born!*

*Christ, the Savior is born.*

*Silent night, holy night!*

*Son of God, love's pure light!*

*Radiant beams from Your holy face,*

*With the dawn of redeeming grace.*

*Jesus, Lord, at Your birth, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.*

## POSTLUDE

**The First Noel**  
*Arr by John Carter*

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Scripture Quotations: From Biblegateway.com NIV 2011  
Joy Has Dawned © 2020 Hope Publishing Company*

Presiding Minister: Jonathan Kolander  
Accompanists: Rosemarie Boushek, Vincent Beiderbecke (cello, violin)

*To connect to our website and the auto giving option:*



# THE *Wonder* OF CHRISTMAS

### *Upcoming Worship Services*

Christmas Day ... 9:30 AM

December 29 ... 8:00 & 10:45 AM

*Come, worship Jesus ...  
the Light of the world, and sing of His praises!*



*Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.*

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**Glorify God ... Grow in Grace ... Go with the Gospel**