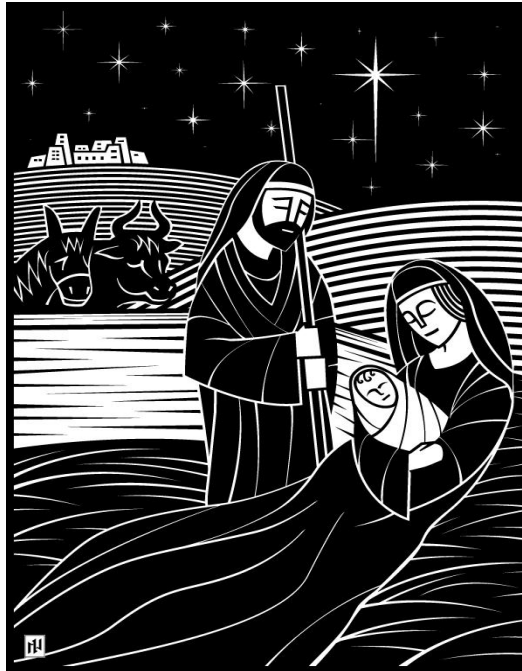


CELEBRATING THE LOVE OF GOD

Advent Midweek # 3

December 18, 2024



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

We are St. Mark's Church & School

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

Focus for our Midweek Gatherings --- *Spiritual Lessons From A 'Tree'*

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).

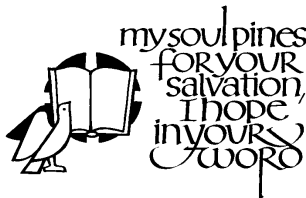
May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

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

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.



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: Trees – so many benefits for our health, in addition to adding beautification to our life. Trees come in a wide variety, and they serve different purposes though all fall under the category of ‘trees.’ Trees are a gift from the Creator. How fitting that God uses the tree to provide spiritual lessons. During this Advent Season we will focus on some of these lessons by examining the tree of Life – Prosperity – Promise. Joy and Peace are in the air ... thanks to those ‘trees.’

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wayne L. Wold

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

We pause for the lighting of the Advent Wreath

M: O LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them?

C: They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow.

(Ps 144)

M: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

C: his greatness no one can fathom.

(Ps 145)

M: The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

C: The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Christian Worship (dark blue) # 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100

Note the reason why we are to enter our house of worship with an attitude of thanksgiving.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. ²Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

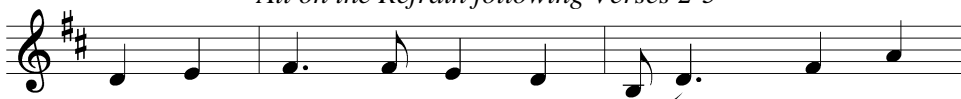
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: We lift up our hearts to the Lord!

Verse 1 Choir ... Verse 2 All ... Verse 3 Men

Verse 4 Women ... Verse 5 All

All on the Refrain following Verses 2-5



1 My _____ soul is filled with joy as I
 2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
 3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
 4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
 5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
 know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
 won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
 rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
 prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
 mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
 heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
 mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
 Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

The Lord reveals an important, marriage saving even, truth.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: We lift up our hearts to the Lord!

HYMN

The Tree of Life

Musical Introduction

Christian Worship (dark blue) # 574



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's
ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a
lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
 sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,
 tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for
 fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and
 world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played with - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Isaiah 11:1-10

“The Tree Of Promise”

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. ⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

What Hope! And Eden Prophesied

Christian Worship (dark blue) # 304



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied where
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, a
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, lost



tame live with the wild, the lamb and li - on
branch from Da - vid's line, a Prince of Peace in
came to suf - fer loss, that by his death a
Par - a - dise re - store; lead past the an - gel's



side by side, led by a lit - tle child!
Beth - le - hem: the fruit of God's de - sign.
dy - ing world would ral - ly to the cross.
flam - ing sword—come, o - pen heav - en's door.



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.

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do His will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Musical Introduction

Christ the Eternal Lord

Christian Worship (dark blue) # 521



2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word to ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
5 Christ the as - cend - ed King ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



whose time - less teach - ings still are heard set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, whom yet un - seen we love;



trans - form our thought and mind, en - light - en all who read,
when mor - tal life is past your voice from heav - en's throne



with - in your Word by faith to find the bread of life in - deed.
shall call your chil - dren home at last to know as we are known.

POSTLUDE

Once He Came in Blessing

Barry L. Bobb

Announcements

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

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor David Waterstradt from Hope in Penryn -
He also serves as the Circuit Pastor for our Sierra Circuit
Accompanist: Jeri Reed

The Advent Candles ... The first candle (blue) is the prophecy candle (candle of hope). The second candle (blue) is the Bethlehem candle (candle of preparation). The third candle (pink) is the Shepherd candle (candle of joy). The fourth candle (blue) is the Angel candle (candle of love). The fifth candle (white) is the Christ candle.





Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

7869 Kingswood Drive * Citrus Heights, California 95610
Phone: (916) 961-7891 Fax: (916) 961-5034

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.*
Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel
Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (Live streamed)

**Sunday, December 22 – one Service at 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00 pm (indoors) ... Lessons & Carols at 8:00 pm (outdoors)
Christmas Day at 9:30 am*

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



