

CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for January 12, 2025



**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 after the Epiphany of our Lord

January 12, 2025

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:

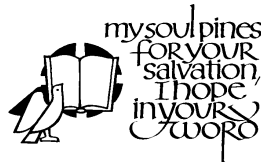
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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: Do you know the day of your Baptism? Knowing the day is not as important as knowing, and remembering, that you have been baptized into Christ. Baptism is one of the ways God has given for people to become connected to Him; this includes infants as coming to God is not something we do or have to do – it is His gift to us. Celebrate the fact you have been baptized into Christ; celebrate what comes with your Baptism.

PRELUDE

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: O Lord, keep our ears attentive to your Word through word and song,

C: and accept our words of thanks and praise.

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 4

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Christian Worship Blue # 602



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

C: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his 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.

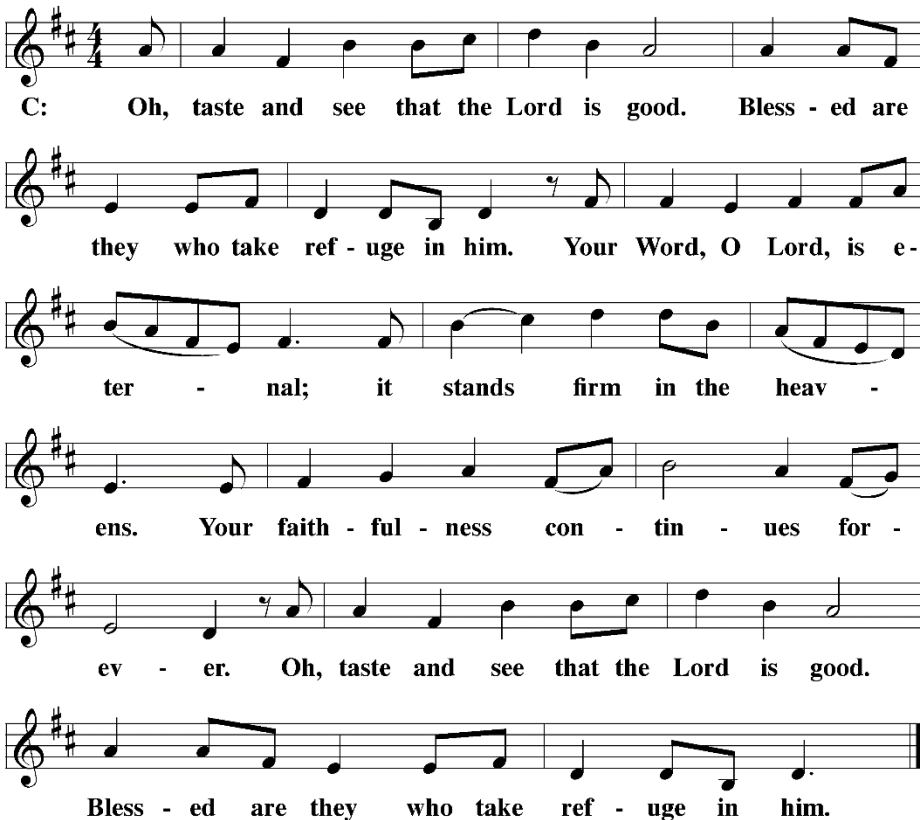
All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

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: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

(musical introduction) ...



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life;

C: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:1-13

God is not just concerned with outward appearances, but more so with the heart.

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”² But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me

the one I indicate.”⁴ Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”⁵ Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.”⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.”¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Lord, You Call Us as Your People

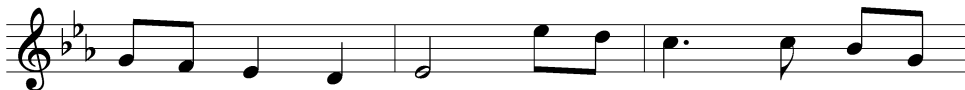
Christian Worship New # 736



1 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, out of dark - ness
 2 Lord, you call us as dis - ci - ples, walk - ing on your
 4 Lord, you call us to new ven - tures by a path - way
 5 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, now in faith we



in - to light. You cre - at - ed and re - deemed us, made us
 pil - grim way. Cru - ci - fied and ris - en Sav - ior, you are
 yet un - known. Though we can - not see the end - ing, we will
 sing your praise: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, al - le -



pre - cious in your sight. Give us faith to trust you
 with us ev - 'ry day. Give us wis - dom, give us
 fol - low you a - lone. Know - ing that your hand is
 lu - ias to you raise. Hold us in your gra - cious



bold - ly and to love you stead - fast - ly. By your
 cour - age as you teach us pa - tient - ly. By your
 guid - ing and you love us faith - ful - ly, by your
 pow - er, bless - ed Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, that re -



Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
 Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
 Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
 joic - ing we will ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Titus 3:4-7

Saved by grace, grace given through Word and Sacrament.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Psalm 98 with Hymn 332, "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

M: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things.

(sing, intro)

**Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven,
 who, to bid our hearts rejoice, his own Son has given.**

M: The LORD has made his salvation known

C: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

M: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(sing, no intro)

**To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sadness,
 that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in gladness.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

C: burst into jubilant song with music;

M: make music to the LORD with the harp,

C: with the harp and the sound of singing.

M: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

(sing, no intro)

We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a wonder?

Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jesus comes with both Law and Gospel.

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is with Me

Musical Introduction

Christian Worship Blue # 681



1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death, that as he was raised
2 I have now been graft - ed to the vine, draw - ing life from roots
3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ, I no long - er live,



by God's glo - ry, we might walk in life made new by grace;
rich in mer - cy, bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him,
Christ lives in me; now I live by faith in God's own Son—



hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with him.
fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing God.
one who loved me so, gave him - self for me.



Christ is with me ev - 'ry - where I go;



nev - er to leave me, this I know.

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Titus 3:4-7

“Celebrating God’s Grace Toward Us”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us each day.
C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Christian Worship Blue # 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?
cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science seize me
not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,
her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es,
there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -
since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -
all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your
faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Christian Worship Blue # 689



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, and let my
2 De - stroy in me the lust of sin, from all im -
3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, that glad - ly
4 Grant that I on - ly you may love and seek those



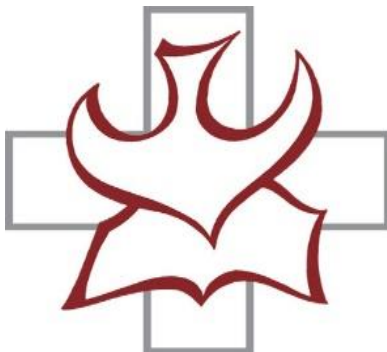
heart and soul be bright, il - lu - mined with the
pure - ness make me clean. O grant me pow'r and
I o - bey your Word. O let your will be
things which are a - bove till I be - hold you



light of grace that is - sues from your ho - ly face.
strength, my God, to strive a - gainst my flesh and blood.
my de - sire and with new life my soul in - spire.
face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through your grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Jeri Reed

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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: What qualities do you like to see when it comes to people in leadership positions? How can outward appearances be deceiving? What lesson(s) are in this section for you personally? Read Romans 10.

2nd: Pick out the words which reflect God's goodness to you and ponder their significance. God says Baptism is able to do what for you? Read John 3 & Matthew 28:18-20.

3rd: How did John the Baptist deflect the attention off of him? What was the point of the Father saying what He did about Jesus? Read Luke 9:18-36.

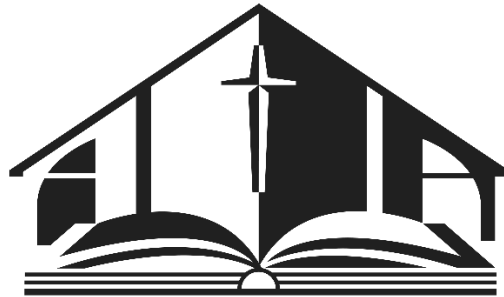
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THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	All Member Brunch
Monday	5:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	GriefShare # 2
	6:00 p.m.	Child Discipleship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council Meeting
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel in the Church
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 p.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study
	4:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Book Club (Luther Room)
Next Sunday	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	12:30 p.m.	Kolander Farewell Celebration

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
	<i>Dec 30</i>	Chuck & Kathy Edwards
		Babu & Suma Joseph
	<i>Jan 2</i>	Larry & Julie Dushane
	<i>Jan 4</i>	David & Cheryl Skultety
Cherish Allan	<i>Jan 12</i>	
Charisa Allan	<i>Jan 14</i>	Philip & Toni Wright
Marty Puckett, Jr.		
Halia Butler	<i>Jan 17</i>	
Elaina Clark		



St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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