

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD,
WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS!!**

May His Word strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ and your love for Him.

We celebrate Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays and the preceding Thursdays. We practice close communion and invite guests to speak with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table.

If you would like to know more about our congregation or Risen Savior Lutheran School, please sign the Worship Register in your pew or use the contact information found below. Also, you are invited to take a copy of the monthly calendar, available in the narthex – or ask an usher for a copy.

Come join us for worship again soon!

The **NURSERY** is available for parents with small children who may be restless during the service and is located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Please use at your discretion. Thank you for returning the toys to the tubs.

QUIET BAGS, filled with items and activities for children, are available on the rack near the Nursery door.

A **RESTROOM** is located in the narthex just past the nursery (on your left when exiting the sanctuary).



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JANUARY 7, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season celebrates the Incarnation of the Son of God. The eternal Word became flesh that he might be the Christ, anointed to redeem God's people. God had to become man to live under the law and die in our place. Christ's birth, then, is inextricably connected to his death: Good Friday necessitated Christmas. So great is the love of God that even though our sin required such a sacrifice, the Light of the world still descended into our darkness.

Welcome to all who have joined us for worship today. We pray that this service will be a blessing to you.

PASTOR KEITH SIVERLY

St. Mark Mission: To Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known

St. Mark Vision: A Welcoming Family of Believers, Sharing God's Word.

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My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
2 May thy rich grace im-part Strength to my
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -
4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, When death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness
sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior,



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
then, in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move;



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87.
Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (♯) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER (spoken together)

ALL: O Holy Spirit, by the power of the gospel you created faith in our hearts—faith in Jesus as our only Savior and faith to live as his disciples. Never let us doubt that you have the power to do what you have promised. Instead strengthen our faith as we grow in your Word. And finally, lead us by faith to the eternal Promised Land. Amen.

BE SEATED

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

God had made promises to Abram that sounded impossible, including the birth of a son to this senior citizen and his infertile wife. At this point Abram and Sarai had no son. But Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord credited his faith to him as righteousness. By faith in Jesus we have his righteousness credited to us, and so we are also saved by faith.

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

The Congregation is asked to sing all parts of the Psalm—both the verses and refrain.

Psalm 27

Refrain

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I
be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Psalm tone

*

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;*
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,*
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,*
O God my Savior.

Refrain

Though my father and mother forsake me,*
the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:*
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the
land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;*
be strong and take heart and wait for the
LORD.

**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.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: David Haas. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 3:19-24 (NIV)

Abraham believed in the God who calls things that are not as though they were, the God who has power to do what he has promised. The righteousness that was credited to Abraham by faith is credited to us who believe in God, who raised Jesus from the dead.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13-19 (NIV)

As Peter followed Jesus, he became more and more convinced that Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, who was to come into the world. Jesus told Peter that his faith in the person and work of Jesus was revealed to him by God the Father. In this text Peter clearly confesses his faith in who Jesus is and in the saving work Jesus came to do.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not

revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

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M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

BE SEATED

HYMN: Found in Christian Worship Hymnal (red hymnal)

406 This Is the Threefold Truth



1 This is the three - fold truth on which our
 2 Made sa - cred by long use, new - mint - ed
 3 On this we fix our minds as, kneel - ing
 4 By this we are up - held when doubt or
 5 This is the three - fold truth which, if we



faith de - pends; And with this joy - ful
 for our time, Our lit - ur - gies sum
 side by side, We take the bread and
 grief as - sails Our Chris - tian faith and
 hold it fast, Chang - es the world and



cry wor - ship be - gins and ends:
 up the hope we have in him:
 wine, take him, the Cru - ci - fied:
 love, and on - ly grace a - vails:
 us and brings us home at last:

Refrain



Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

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Tune: ACCLAMATIONS (12 12 12) Jack Schrader, b. 1942. © 1980 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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SERMON

TEXT: Hebrews 11:1-3,8-12

THEME: Faith Alone

- I. Faith is certain of what we cannot see. (1-3)
- II. Faith is sure of what we hope for. (8-12)

Hebrews 11:1-3,8-12 (NIV 84)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ... By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham — even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

STAND

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.**

BE SEATED

OFFERING

*The members of St. Mark have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world,
and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor this morning, you are welcome but not
obligated to give an offering.*

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Let us pray to the Lord for the Christian church on earth and for all people everywhere.

M: For all who gather here today and for our entire congregation, that through the gospel the Lord would give us growth in faith and increase our love:

C: We ask you to bless us, O Lord.

M: For the spreading of the gospel throughout the world; for all pastors, missionaries, and their families, that they may boldly proclaim Christ to the nations:

C: We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

M: For the promises you have made to us and the trust you seek from us; for the faith you have given your people to believe in the saving work of our Savior Jesus; and for the Spirit's power to be faithful in the ministry you have given us to do, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain:

C: We magnify your name, O Lord.

M: For the people of our country; for the Lord's blessings on our work; for those seeking employment; for good health; and for good weather:

C: We beg for your mercy, O Lord.

M: For all who are sick in body or mind; for the hungry and the homeless; for those who are in prison; for those who are dying and those who are mourning:

C: We ask you to help them according to your will, O Lord.

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

Silent prayer.

M: All this we ask, O Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

HYMN: Found in Christian Worship Hymnal (red hymnal)

405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink



1 Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though
2 That will not mur - mur nor com - plain Be -
3 A faith that shines more bright and clear When
4 That bears un - moved the world's dread frown Nor
5 A faith that keeps the nar - row way Till



pressed by man - y a foe, That will not trem - ble
neath the chas - t'ning rod, But in the hour of
tem - pests rage with - out, That, when in dan - ger,
heeds its scorn - ful smile, That sin's wild o - cean
life's last spark is fled And with a pure and



on the brink Of pov - er - ty or woe,
grief or pain Can lean up - on its God,
knows no fear, In dark - ness feels no doubt,
can - not drown Nor Sa - tan's arts be - guile,
heav'n - ly ray Lights up the dy - ing bed.

6 Lord, give us such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877.
Tune: ST. PETER (CM) Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877.

STAND

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 2:16,17 (NIV)

M: "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." Amen.

BE SEATED

768

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints
2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -
5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -



of the Lord, Is laid for your
not dis - mayed; For I am your
for re - pose I will not, I
way shall lie, My grace all - suf -
ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -



faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
God and will still give you aid; I'll
will not, de - sert to his foes. That
fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The
ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And



more can he say than to you
strength - en you, help you, and cause
soul, though all hell should en - deav -
flames will not hurt you; I on -
then, when gray hair shall their tem -



he has said Who un - to the
you to stand, Up - held by my
or to shake, I'll nev - er, no
ly de - sign Your dross to con -
ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall



Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!
sume and your gold to re - fine.
still on my shoul - ders be borne."

The beloved words of this hymn are wed to its traditional American melody.

Text: A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787, alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION (11 11 11 11) Traditional American melody; Caldwell's Union Harmony, 1837.

THANK YOU to our organist, Marti Klindworth, for helping to enhance our worship today!