

**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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**DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**FIRST 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.**

## COMMON SERVICE

OPENING HYMN: Found in Christian Worship Hymnal (red hymnal)

### 42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 See how God, for us providing, Gave his  
3 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -  
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is  
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941.  
Tune: QUEM PASTORES (88 87) *Ein Schlesisch singebüchlein*, Breslau, 1555.

STAND

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



C: A - - men.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Congregation (C): 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.**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - - men.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**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 OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:20-25

- 20 A person too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot; they look for a skilled worker to set up an idol that will not topple.
- 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
- 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
- 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
- 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.
- 25 "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

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

### Psalm 111

#### Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

#### Psalm tone



Great are the works of the LORD;\*  
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,\*  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;\*  
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

#### Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;\*  
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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: J. Robert Carroll. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:15a)



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

## STAND

*(The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.)*

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:25-40

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.  
30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Found in Christian Worship Hymnal (red hymnal)

**41 Let All Together Praise Our God**



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

**SERMON**

STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

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: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after 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.**

### 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;**

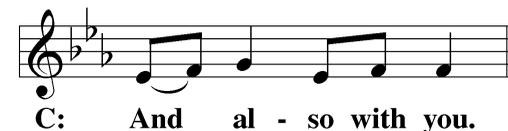
**and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

BE SEATED

## THE SACRAMENT

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

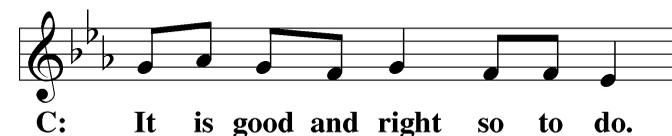
M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.

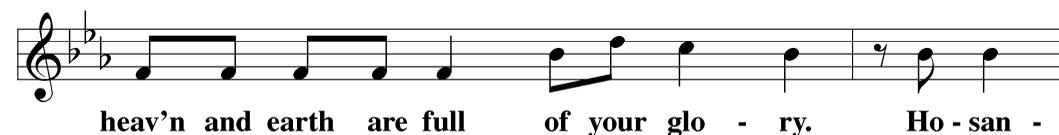


M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*BE SEATED*

**DISTRIBUTION**

## 78 O Light of Gentile Nations



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O  
 2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In  
 3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You  
 4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's  
 ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has  
 seem to hide your face, And through our tears we  
 Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -  
 prom - ised That we should see your face. To -  
 of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then  
 ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O



to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with  
 day you still al - low us Who gath - er  
 be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in  
 Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in



rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had  
 round you here In arms of faith to  
 pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est  
 peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.  
 hold you As did that a - ged seer.  
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.  
 Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: MUNICH (76 76 D) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

## 366 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild



1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For sin - ners  
 2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With God we  
 3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy fills the



you be - came a child. You came from heav - en  
 now are rec - on - ciled. You have for all the  
 world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we have be -



to ful - fill Your Fa - ther's just and ho - ly  
 ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's right - eous an - ger  
 longs to you; Oh, keep us faith - ful, strong, and



will. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!  
 stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!  
 true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-62, abr.; tr. Frieda Pietsch, alt.  
 Tune: O JESULEIN SÜSS (10 8 88 10) *Ausserlesene, Catholische, Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623, alt.

## THANKSGIVING

### SONG OF SIMEON

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

M: 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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN:** Found in Christian Worship Hymnal (red hymnal)

57

### Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent  
2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a -  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble

flocks by night, Be - hold, through - out the  
bove the earth Rang out the an - gel  
Christ was born; And God sent us sal -

*Refrain*

heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, refrain; John W. Work, 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Tune: GO, TELL IT (78 76 76 76) African-American spiritual, c. 19th century, alt.

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