

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 5,
2025



The 2nd
Sunday of
Christmas

PRELUDE “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Recorder: *Peggy Andersen*
Drum: *Carol Kugler*

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

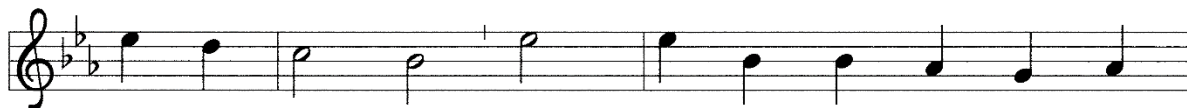
ELW 424



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more



ser - a - phs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:



“Al - le - lu - ia!” Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
“Al - le - lu - ia!” Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:



“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!” Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

Blessed be the one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting: Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Called into Holy Family"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Bells of Christmas"

ELW 298 vv. 1, 4

Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our
for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from
hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "Lord, in your mercy," is "Hear our prayer"...*

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Patrick Campbell, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of love lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy - Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit - today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268 *Tune: Duke Street*

1 "From heav'n above t-o earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home;
glad tidings o-f gre-at jo-y I bring,
to all the world, and gladly sing:

2 "To you this night i-s born a- child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn chi-ld o-f low-ly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 Glory to God i-n high-est heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n.
With angels si-ng i-n pio-us- mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“What Child is This?”

Recorder: *Peggy Andersen*

Guitar: *Kara Monfre*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister & Lector:** Charlie Duncan +
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Tech Minister:** Melanie Robison

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Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Mae Newsome, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, & Carol Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Phyllis Booker, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Marilyn Dichsen, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Dave Schaaf, Jill Schlueter, Becky Schnitzius, Stefanie Schroeder, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Sue Witherell, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe Merrel & Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

Members Celebrating Birthdays This Week

Diane Maes (1/7), Mike Foppe (1/7), Peggy Andersen (1/9), Taylor Currie (1/10), and Devin Kilzer (1/10)

Land Acknowledgement

St. Mark Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw**, **Myaamia**, **Kaskaskia**, and **Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

A Word to Christmas from Bishop Greg Busboom

As I write these reflections just a few days before Christmas it occurs to me that many people are already ready for Christmas to be over. As early as December 26, many people will take down their Christmas decorations, rearrange their furniture back to the way it usually is, and pack Jesus away until next year. It boggles my mind that the same folks who put up their Christmas lights the day after Halloween also take them down the day after Christmas, just when Christmas has barely even begun!



For us Christians, the celebration of Christmas begins on Christmas Day, the first day of Christmas, and continues through the twelfth day of Christmas on January 5, the eve of Epiphany. And yet, how many of us Christians have simply given in to the world's eagerness to be done with Christmas before it even really begins?

This tension between the Word and the world goes back to the very beginning. In the Christmas Day gospel, the author of John writes, "*[The Word] was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him*" (1:10-11). It is one thing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh. It is another thing altogether to know him and to accept him. Are we willing to know and accept the Word made flesh this Christmas? Are our congregations? Is our world?

Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the light that illumines the world, revealing the world's sin and brokenness and our sin-filled participation in it and, at the same time, revealing God's loving and redemptive purpose for the world, a world that Jesus himself participated in creating. From the very start of John's gospel, the cross is visible. Jesus, the Word made flesh, would be rejected by the world he came to save. The world would pack Jesus away on the cross, trying to get rid of him, but God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, would overcome the world. The Word would win. The Word **does** win.

In baptism, this crucified and risen Word has become flesh in us. We are now the ones called to bear this Word into the world as we speak words of truth against flagrant lies and deception, words of love against growing hate and exclusion, words of justice against unchecked power and greed. We are now the ones called to bear this Word into a world that will most likely reject us even as it rejected him. Are we willing to know and accept this Word? The good news is that in knowing and accepting Jesus, there is promise — promise beyond anything the world can give — "*But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God*" (1:13).

As we prepare to celebrate the beginning of Christmas, how are we being called to bear witness to the Word the world still rejects? Perhaps it begins by refusing to be done with Christmas on



December 26, but instead leaving our Christmas lights on and singing our Christmas songs through all the 12 days of Christmas. Perhaps it means something more as we, through both our words and our actions, bear witness to the world that Jesus, the Word made flesh, has overcome the world and all its sin-filled ways. Perhaps it means taking up the cross and following Jesus all the way from the manger through Golgotha to an empty grave, risking even death for the sake of life.

*For our redemption still he comes,
In him shines, like a thousand suns,
God's mercy, clouded never.
Now all who will on him believe,
Who follow him, he will receive
And as his flock will gather.
He will guide us, walk beside us, and uphold us,
Till in heaven we shall be like him forever. (LBW #73)*

Wishing you all a most holy and blessed Christmas +

Bishop Greg

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for January 5, 2025 THE WEEK AHEAD

- Monday, January 6:** 2:30PM — Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor **CANCELLED**
6:00PM — Joint worship for the feast of the Epiphany **CANCELLED**
- Wednesday, Jan. 8:** 10:30AM Joint Use Taskforce – conference room
12:00PM Ladies Lunch Bunch at Easy Buffet & Grill
- Thursday, Jan. 9:** 6:00Pm Yoga – parish hall
6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, Jan. 11:** 9:00AM Undecorating of the Church and Chapel

Office Hours Changing

Starting January 2, Randi's office hours will be Monday-Friday from 12-4:30PM.

Epiphany Worship Cancelled

Because of the dangerous accumulation of snow and ice, we are cancelling the worship service for the feast of the Epiphany originally scheduled for this Monday, January 6.

Diaper Drive for Epiphany!



As the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, we will celebrate **Epiphany** with a **Diaper Drive** for little ones in need in our community.

Our Epiphany Diaper Drive will run January 5 through February 9. Items collected will be donated to The Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville, Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon and other local organizations.

Diapers sizes 3 through 7, and pullups sizes 2T through 6T, and disposable pants sizes 2T through 6T and 3T are most needed. Open packages will be accepted. **Unopened packages of diaper wipes and diaper rash cream are also welcome.**

Realizing diapers are expensive, members are encouraged to join together on purchases or give monetary donations to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens. Donations may also be made electronically at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR?access=tile> **direct through February 9.**

Undecorating Help Needed!

The altar guilds of St. Mark and St. George's request help on **Saturday, January 11** at **9:00AM** to take down and put away all of the Christmas decorations. Many hands make work light and quick! Thank you in advance for your help.



St. Mark Offerings for 12/24 & 12/29: General Fund: **\$862.11**; Food Pantry: \$1000;
ELCA Disaster Relief: \$195.54; Diaper Drive: \$146.88



Interested in Yoga at St. Mark?

Formal classes will be held for 45 minutes on Thursday evenings at 6:15PM beginning on January 9, 2025 in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$5.00 is asked for each session. Please bring your own mat and water bottle for classes.

Practicing yoga can help with body flexibility, strength, mobility, and balance. It also requires you to shift into a more relaxed state, which can help decrease stress, increase focus, and promote a stronger connection with yourself. You can't ask for a more pose-ative experience!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

For January's gathering, the LLB will meet on **Wednesday, January 8 at 12 noon** at **Easy Buffet and Grill** (2524 Green Mount Commons, Suite 120, Belleville), across from SWIC on Carlye Ave.

Making a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

On Sunday, December 8, a wonderful group shared the joy of Christmas with residents of local care facilities, including some of our own church members. We visited Colonnade Senior Living in O'Fallon, Charter Senior Living and Mercy Rehab and Care in Swansea, and Freeburg Care Facility. The residents made our visit even better by singing along to their favorite Christmas songs.



Angel Tree Project and more!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in St. George's and St. Mark joint Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through Lutheran Child & Family Services this year. Our faith communities generously provided gifts for **over 70 children!**

In addition to all the gifts donated by members, three (3) Thrivent Action Team grants provided a total of \$750 for gifts. A small portion of St. Mark's monetary donations were used to purchase gently worn coats and sweatshirts for Franklin School students in need. A special monetary donation was designated for new socks and leggings for the Franklin School students. Pictures are worth a thousand words so here's a few to show the amazing project results! Additional pictures are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

