

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you!

December 24,
2024



Christmas
Eve

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1st Saturdays - Chapel*)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

in-person & streaming

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

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The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor

PLEASE wear a mask/face covering *if* you are exhibiting *any* upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19 (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshipping with us today! “*Quiet Bags*” (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

Parish Hall and Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

Assistive listening devices and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“A Tiny Baby was Born Today”

Men’s Chorus

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” arr. by Hayen

Piano Solo: Carol Kugler

“Rise Up Shepherds and Follow” Arr. Lajenski

Chancel Choir

PRELUDE “O Holy Night” by Adams Evelyn Duncan, organ; Charlie Duncan, flugelhorn

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please STAND as you are able*

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

Amen.

Tonight on Christmas Eve we gather with families all over the earth in the presence of the Most High.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

As we have been filled by light, let us enlighten.

As we have been found, let us seek out the lost.

As we have been liberated, let us set the captives free.

For to us a child is born, One whom God sends to bring peace and light, freedom and reconciliation. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters. You may bow as it passes, honoring the mystery of our salvation.

GATHERING HYMN “O Come All Ye Faithful” **ELW 283**

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of hea-ven above!

Glory to Go-d i-n the- hi-gh-est: [Refrain]

3 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flo-cks, dra-w ni-gh in awe;

we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: [Refrain]

4 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

born of a vir-gin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

GREETING

Tonight 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!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *The assembly is SEATED.*

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest... ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96 “*All People That On Earth Do Dwell*” *Tune: Puer Nobis/“On Jordan’s Bank”*

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lo-rd with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, and praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice. →

2 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
approach with jo-y his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

3 For why? The Lord our God is good:
his mercy i-s forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure. →

4 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom hea-v'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. *Please SIT*

SERMON

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

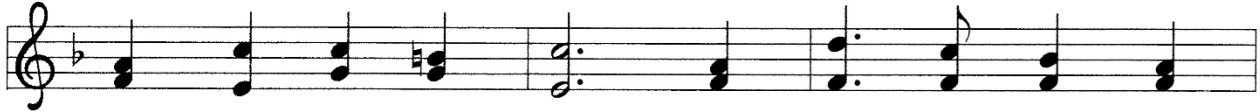
The Rev. Brian M. Robison



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1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2 “Fear not,” said he, for might - y dread had
 3 “To you, in Da - vid’s town this day, is
 4 “The heav’n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind: “Glad tid - ings of great
 born of Da - vid’s line the Sav - ior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.
 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.”

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will to all from highest heav’n
 begin and never cease!”

CREED *sung to the tune of Greensleeves/“What Child is This?”*



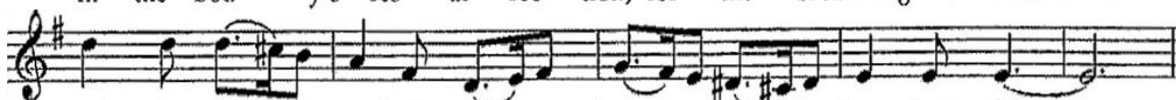
We be - lieve_ in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be.
 We be - lieve_ that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
 We be - lieve_ in God’s own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with - in



Mak - er of_ the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky_ and sea.
 tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied, True Life there had tru - ly died.
 one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees_ from sin;



We be - lieve_ in God’s Son, Je - sus, now for us_ both Lord and Christ,
 We be - lieve_ that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
 in the bod - y’s res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of_ death’s chain



of_ the Spir - it and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life_ -
 then as - cend - ed to God’s righthand. He will come to judge and save_ -
 gives the life_ that’s ev - er - last - ing, This the faith that we have claimed_

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response to “God of grace,” is “Hear our prayer”...

MEAL

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God’s peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be seated for a few moments*

OFFERING *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

CHOIR ANTHEM “Mary, Did You Know?” by Lowry St. Mark Chancel Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together... **God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

OFFERTORY “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ELW 279 v. 1

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still w-e see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the sile-nt stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Tune: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”*)

The Lord be with you.

And with you.

Lift up yo-ur hearts to pray.

We lift them up unto the Lord, for we tha-nk God this day.

For at the birth of time your-Word brought light into our strife.

And now the Word breaks through the dark, takes on our human life.



**For Christ is born of Ma-ry, and, gather-ed all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of- wond’ring love.
O morning stars, toge-ther proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

The night before he died, our Lord had supper- with his friends.

He broke the bread and took the cup, and giv-ing thanks he said:

“This is my body bro-ken; this cup, my blood for you;

And when you eat rememb’ring me, forgiveness flows to you.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

LAMB OF GOD (*Tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*) *Please SIT*

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin o-f all the world;

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin o-f all the world;

Have mercy on us, Lamb of-God, and give your people peace.

Have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and give the- world your peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*



“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

ELW 271



1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

ST MARK HANDBELL CHOIR

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Arr. by Tucker

After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** as you are able for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Canticle after Communion: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW 288, v. 2



Good Christ - ian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!



He has o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ was born for th - is! Christ was born for this!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

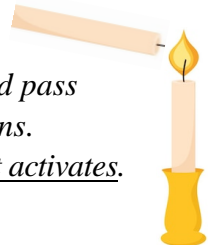
ELW 281

The choir sings verse 1 in German, then the congregation joins in with verse 1 in English.

The acolytes will come along the aisles with torches. Please light your candles from the torch, and pass the flame to others down the pew. For those with electric candles, activate them as the hymn begins.

For those who have candles without an obvious switch, please tighten the bottom of the candle until it activates.

You are encouraged to raise your lighted candles during the last line of each verse.



1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from your holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

At the conclusion of the song, please **carefully** extinguish your candles so as not to blow wax onto the pews.
 As you leave tonight, please place your candles in the baskets in the narthex or return them to an usher

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN "Joy to the World" ELW 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

by J.S. Bach; Arranged by D. Bish

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Charlie Duncan

Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami + **Crucifer:** Frank Dressel + **Lector:** Jan Richards

Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Ushers:** TBD + **Safety Volunteer:** TBD

“...Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity as we see it happening in babies around us. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather His flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify us. Inexpressible majesty will crush us. That is why Christ took on our humanity, yet without sin, that He should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor He should console and confirm.

Look at the Child and forget all other thoughts. That all that is and has been and ever shall be belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in the child.

Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the Virgin. Laugh with Him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace.

See how God invites you in many ways, placing before you a babe with whom you may take refuge. You cannot fear God, for nothing is more appealing to us than a babe.

Are you frightened? Then come to Him, lying in the lap of the fairest sweetest maid. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks love above all else that you should not despair.

Trust Him! Trust Him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to humankind than this, that Christ became human, a child, a baby, playing in the lap of His most gracious mother.

Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? The power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt is overcome if you come to adore this gurgling Babe, and believe that He is come, not to judge you, but to save you.”

- *from a Christmas sermon by Martin Luther*



St. Mark Lutheran Church Flowers

Given By	In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For	<i>Given By</i>	In Memory Of or In Thanksgiving For
Mark & Patty Bearth		Greg & Nancy Guenther	Family
Mike & Randi Cardoza	Nora Cardoza, Miguel Cardoza, Sr., & other departed loved ones	Martin Kramer	The Kramer Family & to God's Glory
Lorraine Crannage	Donald Crannage	Pr. Brian Robison	Casimir & Dolly Orzel
Frank, Jan, Jeni & Clark Dressel	Larry & Pat Likness, Erwin & Frieda Dressel	Wilma Shroat	Richard & Gary Shroat
Charlie & Evelyn Duncan	Andrew Duncan	Mary Skifton	Frank, Lucille, & Al Nork; Lenny Mueller, Marylou Kockmann
Karen Eggemeyer	John & Clara Eggemeyer	Wurdinger, Bamvakais, & Schaefer Families	Darrell & Darlene Wurdinger, Barbara Wurdinger, Jay Fields
Kathy Evans	Wil & Jean Martens		
Mary Hill	Larry Hill		

