

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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So also you have
sorrow now,
but I will see you
again,
and your hearts will
rejoice,
and no one will take
your joy from you.
(John 16:22 ESV)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter *(Jubilate)*

25 April A✠D 2021
Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fourth Sunday of Easter. On this day, we remember Jesus' promise, sealed in His resurrection, that in Him our sorrow will turn into joy. Truly, in this world we face many sorrows, especially we who follow Christ. However, we can be sure that, just as our Lord was raised from the dead, we too will be delivered. Therefore, we bear every sorrow patiently, waiting eagerly for the Day when they will all turn at last into joy.

If you are a VISITOR here, we'd like to offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus' body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled "On the Sacrament of Holy Communion," printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,
I humbly pray that You would open my heart
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that when we receive Holy Communion together, we are publicly declaring both our unity in Christ and our agreement in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may simply remain in your pew.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 1–4



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phantly go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 66:3, 5, 8–9; antiphon: vv. 1–2

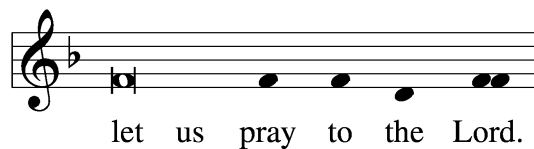
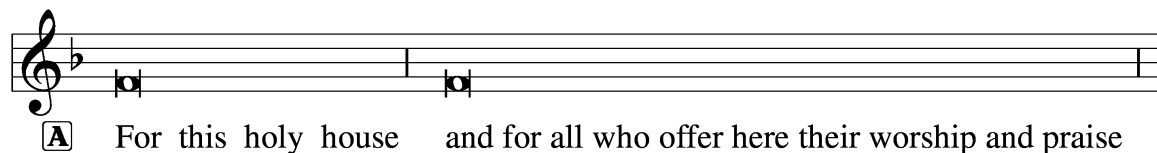
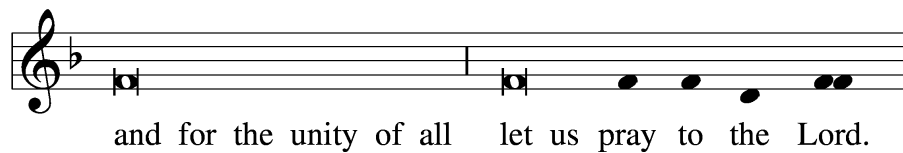
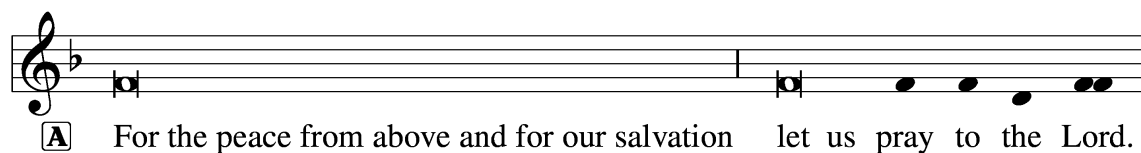
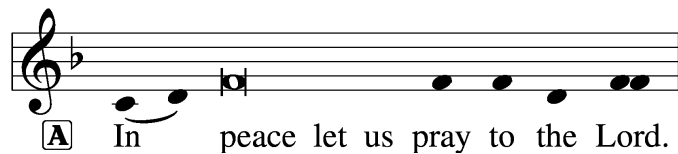
- P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.
Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alleluia.
- P** Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.”
- C** **Come and see what God has done:**
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
- P** Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
- C** **who has kept our soul among the living**
and has not let our feet slip.

**All: 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.**

- P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.
Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alleluia.

Kyrie

LSB 152





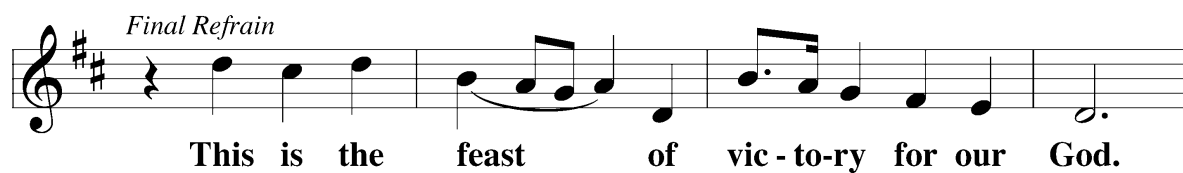
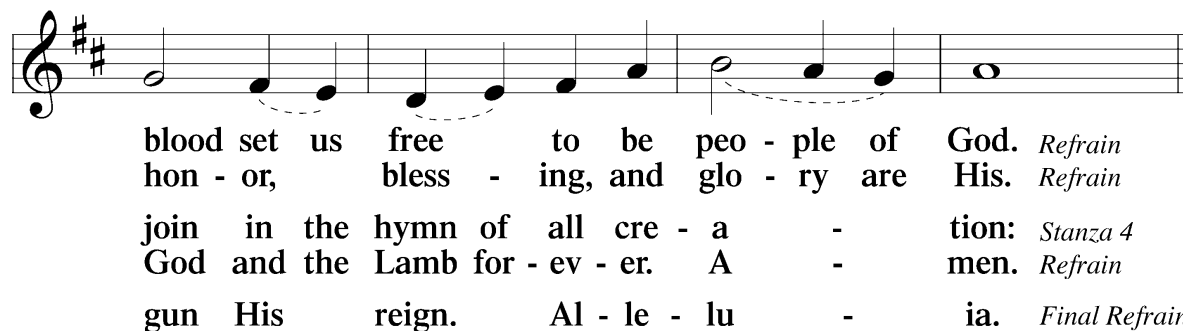
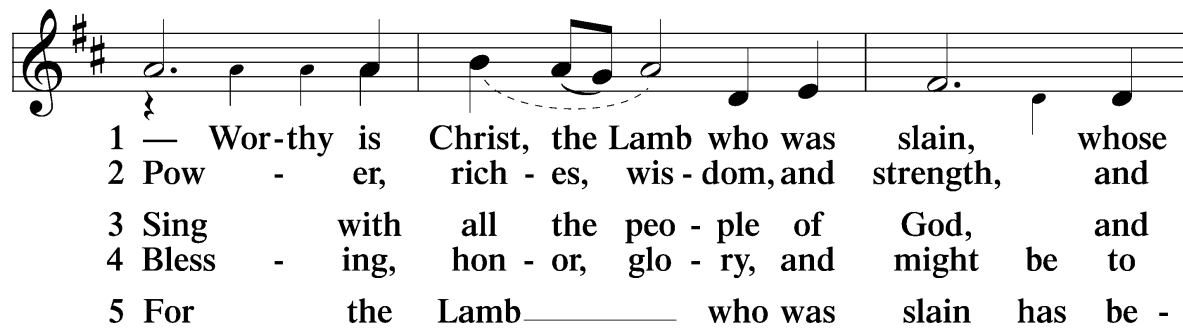
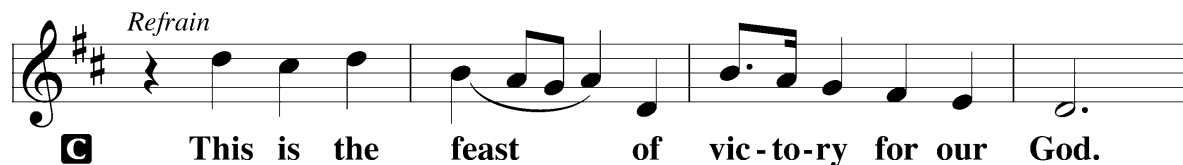
C Lord, have mer - cy.



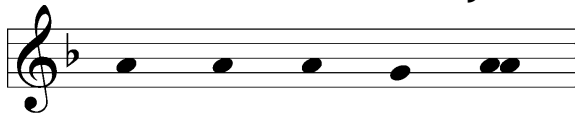
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:25–31

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Verse (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 111:9a; Luke 24:26

(During the celebration of Easter, the Gradual is omitted and the Verse is expanded.)

P Alleluia. He sent redemption
to his people. Alleluia.

C Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory? Alleluia.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:11–20

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel

John 16:16–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.



¹⁶[Jesus said:] “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Hymn of the Day: 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In praise of the awesome works of our God, especially the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord; and for all those in error's darkness, that through the light of God's honor and great power He would lead them to submit themselves to Christ's gracious redemption, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that God would preserve her from every sorrow; that in this short time between Christ's resurrection and our own, the threats of persecution, loss or discomfort would not turn us from the joy and confidence of His redemption; and that He would sustain all preachers faithful to their calling, all confessors steadfast in their trials and all Christians firm in the faith for life, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all Christian homes, that by good deeds the ignorance of foolish people may be put to silence before God's divine institution; for all married couples, that God would preserve them in love and faithfulness; for all parents, that God would strengthen them as teachers of the faith; and for the unmarried, that God would uphold them honorable and unashamed in their station, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For every human institution, that according to God's will, they would exercise the authority He gives from above to punish those who do evil and praise those who do good; for good government at every level, under which we may honor everyone, love the brotherhood and fear God; and for us, that our subjection would be offered always for Christ's sake as sojourners and exiles in this world, and that any suffering we must endure would be borne patiently, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In supplication and intercession for every need, [*especially for _____,*] that our Lord would grant them strength and healing according to His will, asking for everything now in the name of Jesus Christ, our Mediator, until that day when we will at last ask for nothing, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune, that here in the Sacrament of the Altar God would give us joy in the midst of sorrow; that coming in repentance, a firm faith and a united confession, we may have honest fellowship in the blessings of Christ's testament; and that with consciences thus cleansed from evil and renewed in Him, we would stand undaunted until the day of visitation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, of Your fatherly goodness You allow Your children to come under Your chastening rod to conform us to Your only begotten Son here in suffering on earth and hereafter in glory. Comfort us by Your Holy Spirit in all temptations and afflictions, that we would not despair, but trust continually in Your Son's promise that our trials will endure but a little while, and then be followed by eternal joy. Grant that we would overcome all evil in patient hope and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

NOTE REGARDING THE OFFERING – Offering plates are located at the sanctuary exit doors where you may leave your offering as you depart today.

Stand
Offertory

LSB 159

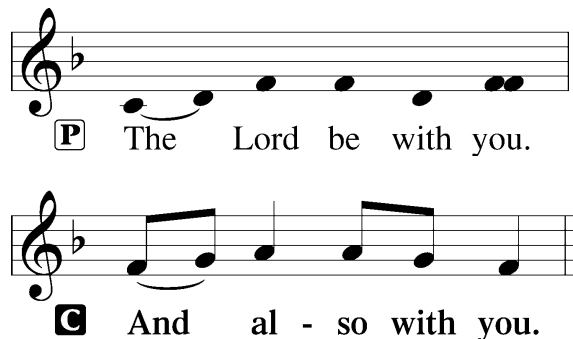


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

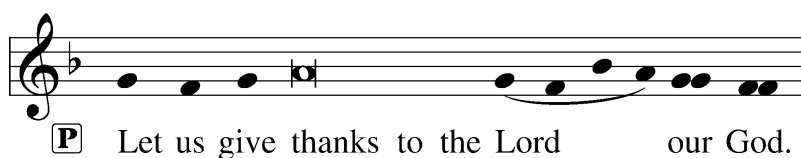
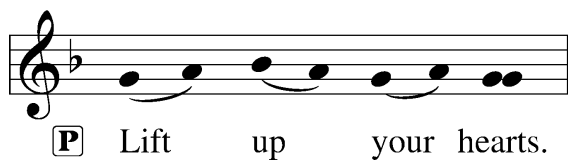
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

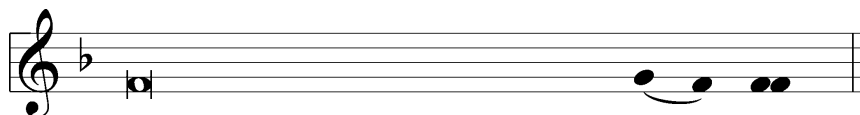
The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



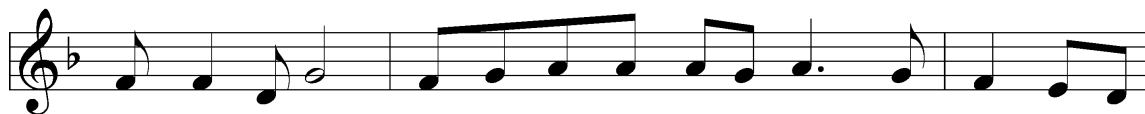
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

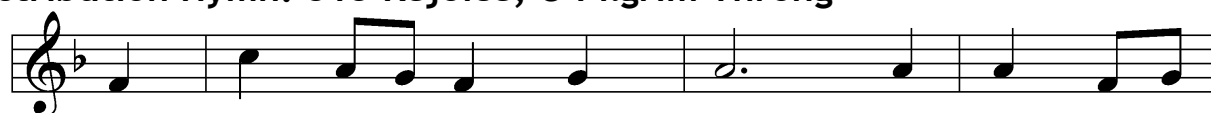
Visitors – Please see note on the inside front cover of this service folder regarding our practice of Holy Communion.

Directions for Holy Communion:

- *Ushers will release you in small groups to approach the altar*
- *Please wear a mask as you approach the altar and as you depart (masks may be removed at the communion rail)*
- *Please space yourselves out at the communion rail (households may remain together)*
- *Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth*
- *Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended*

When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups

Distribution Hymn: 813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
 4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
 saints on earth Pour out the strains of
 chant and song, Through gate and porch and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 Still lift your standard high,
 Still march in firm array,
 As pilgrims through the darkness wend
 Till dawns the golden day. Refrain

6 At last the march shall end;
 The wearied ones shall rest;
 The pilgrims find their home at last,
 Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

△7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
 The Lord whom we adore:
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 One God forevermore. Refrain

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 818 In Thee Is Gladness



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, We fear no pow - ers, Not of

sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -

heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the

wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -

cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for

pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him

To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

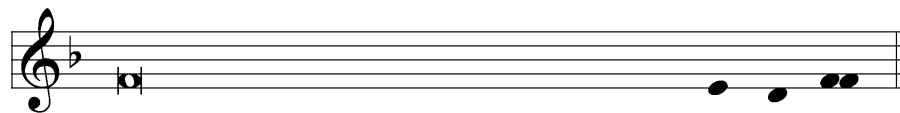
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn: 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 5–8

5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,

pow'rs be - neath You lie; You have con - quered in the fight,
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:

You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 4/25 The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m.
- Mon. 4/26 Pastor out of the office**
- Tue. 4/27 Pastor out of the office in the afternoon**
- Wed. 4/28 Assemble/Serve Dinners** at St. Paul, Pontiac 3 p.m.
- Fri. 4/30 Secretary Debbie Off**
- Sat. 5/1 Men's Bible Study** 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall
"Socially-Distanced" Divine Service 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. 5/2 The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Spring Clean-Up** 10:45 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for our Sunday morning Divine Services:

1. Hand sanitizer will be available on the table in the entryway. The usher will give each communicant a squirt of hand sanitizer before Communion, and sanitizer will be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following Communion.
2. We ask that people wear masks when moving about the building.
3. Certain pews will be closed to maintain spacing between congregants.
4. The "Sharing of the Peace," the passing of offering plates, and the common cup will be temporarily suspended.
5. Holy Communion will be distributed at the altar, but in smaller groups (the Pastor and elder will wear masks during distribution).

Please note that due to technology and time limitations, our online services will now be recorded **on Sundays**, so the services will not be available online until later Sunday afternoon or early the next week. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY – We invite you to join Pastor Vergin in the Fellowship Hall after church each Sunday for Adult Bible Study at 10:45 a.m. He'll be teaching on the Book of Genesis and this is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith! We hope to see you there!

SATURDAY EVENING DIVINE SERVICES – St. Mark's is now temporarily offering a "socially-distanced" **Saturday evening** Divine Service at 6:30 p.m. for those congregants who are still waiting on receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, or have other special circumstances. This will be a shorter, simpler service, about 30-40 minutes in length, during which we will take extraordinary precautions regarding COVID-19 (wearing masks for the entire service, maintaining significant spacing between households, no singing, receiving Holy Communion in the pews, etc.). We hope our members and friends will rededicate themselves to attending either the Saturday or Sunday Divine Service as worshipping together is essential!

PRIVATE VISITS WITH PASTOR - During this time of COVID-19, some of our church members might feel it's better in their personal situations to wait a bit longer before returning to church. And we totally understand. Because of this, Pastor Vergin will continue to post an abbreviated version of our worship service online. Pastor is also available for private pastoral visits where Holy Communion will be given individually and COVID-19 safety precautions will be used (these can be held either at your home or at the church). Please call the church office if you would like to schedule a private visit with Pastor.

RECEIVING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR PROPERTY UPGRADES - As you think about how you might use your recent stimulus money, please consider—as an act of thanksgiving to God and an expression of faith—donating a certain percentage to St. Mark's to help us complete the property upgrades that were a part of our "New Beginnings" plan from last year. This will help advance our ministry to our community, while promoting a good first impression to visitors. Special offering envelopes are available for this initiative, as well as a list of intended upgrades. Please prayerfully consider donating!

SEEKING DONATIONS/VOLUNTEERS FOR DRIVE-THRU DINNER AT ST. PAUL – This **Wednesday, April 28**, St. Mark's will be serving dinner-to-go to the members and neighborhood friends of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac. We are in need of food donations, as well as helpers to distribute the dinners outdoors in a Drive-Thru fashion to those who stop by. A sign-up sheet is now posted on an easel in the lobby listing which food items are needed, as well as lines where you can list your name to help distribute the food. The entire event will be handled using COVID-19 safety procedures, so if you plan to help, please bring your face mask. Any questions regarding this event can be directed to Karen Kaufman, Board of Human Care.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS SATURDAY – Calling all men of St. Mark's! You are welcome and encouraged to attend the next Men's Bible Study this **Saturday, May 1** from 9-10:30 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to gather as Christian men and study God's Word. Breakfast will be included and is free! Bring your friends and family with you as all are welcome!

SPRING CLEAN-UP NEXT SUNDAY – Many hands will be needed to help with St. Mark's annual Spring Clean-Up event next **Sunday, May 2**, directly following the Divine Service. Feel free to bring yard work tools, e.g. rakes, shovels, etc., some yard gloves and anything else you think might be needed. A list of chores is now sitting on the table in the entryway. We hope you'll consider volunteering as we prepare our church for spring/summer!

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS – Mother's Day falls on **Sunday, May 9** this year, and on that day we will be honoring all moms who attend our worship service by giving them a carnation (or similar) in recognition of their role as a mother. You may also choose to help support St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund for 2021 by making a donation in honor, or in memory, of your mom. (See today's pink slip insert for instructions.) The names of all moms listed on a pink slip will then be included in our Mother's Day worship bulletin. Pink slips/donations must be turned into the church office ***no later than Wednesday, May 5.***

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD DIVINE SERVICE – We hope you will join us for worship on **Thursday, May 13** at 7 p.m. as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord during the Divine Service. On this day, forty days after rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Because of this ascension, we can be sure that Jesus, our brother according to the flesh, is now reigning over all things in heaven and on earth for our sake. Furthermore, we can be sure that we too will likewise ascend when He returns again in glory to bring us home. We hope to see you at this festival worship service!

TWO ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY – On **Sunday, May 23**, we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate and remember the Day of Pentecost where, ten days after ascending to the Father, Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit. Then on **Sunday, May 30**, we will gather again to celebrate and remember the Holy Trinity, rejoicing that God has revealed Himself to us in truth as we worship Him as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God, and yet three persons. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend these festival worship services!

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR LENTEN COIN HOLDERS - This is just a reminder that once you are finished filling your Lenten Coin Holder with any amount you choose, don't forget to place it in the offering plate as you depart any of our worship services during the month of April. We will most likely send a check to Bethesda Lutheran Homes in May for the amount that was donated through the coin holders. Thanks again for your support of Bethesda Lutheran Homes of Michigan!

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

DONATIONS FOR THE *INVISIBLE DAD* LUNCH PROGRAM - The Invisible Dad lunch program was started a few years ago by a dad whose children attend Keith Elementary. The program keeps extra money in the school's Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student's personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can't afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered just a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). St. Mark's will continue to receive any loose change you might like to donate toward this program for next year. A clear, glass jar continues to be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary where you can drop any extra change or bills you might have.

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¼" of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN'S SUMMIT ON MISSION – All are invited to attend a Summit on Mission seminar hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church and School at 402 Ballenger Hwy. in Flint, MI on **Saturday, May 22** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Guest speakers will include the Rev. Dr. David Petersen, Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Ft. Wayne, IN who will present on how the Divine Service empowers the church for mission, and also the Rev. Dan Dahling, Pastor at Zion Lutheran in Decatur, IN, who will present on the ministry and mission of Rev. Friedrich Wyneken. The seminar is free and lunch will be provided. ***To register, call (810) 239-6200 no later than May 1.***



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister	Rev. Aaron Vergin
Acolyte	TBD
Altar Guild	Leslie Oehring
Elder on Duty	John Sidelinker
Greeter(s)	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Offering Counters	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Organist	Rob Wheeler
Trumpeter	Chris Gerard
Usher	Trent Johnson
Video Technician	Debbie Sidelinker