

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Septuagesima

31 January A✠D 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Septuagesima Sunday. On this day, as we begin our preparations for Lent, we consider the struggles of the Christian life and the prize that awaits us at the end. Indeed, in this world we Christians will face many difficulties. However, God promises us believers that when our time on earth is done, we will inherit eternal life through faith in Christ. Therefore, we bear all the burdens of this present life with confidence and with joy.

If you are a VISITOR here, we 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 receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). 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 with us 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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Invocation: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

sts. 1–5



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -
 5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our
 spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's
 hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our
 Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.
 ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 18:1–2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5–6a

- P** The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- C** **In my distress I called upon the LORD.**
From his temple he heard my voice.
- P** I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.
- C** **For you save a humble people,**
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
- P** [You have] equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
- C** **For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,**
and sing to your name.

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** The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- C** **In my distress I called upon the LORD.**
From his temple he heard my voice.

Kyrie

LSB 186

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

During Advent and Lent (including the “Gesima” Sundays), the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 9:9–10, 18–19a

- P** The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
- C** And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.
- P** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.
- C** Arise, O LORD!
Let not man prevail.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 130:1–4

(During Lent and the “Gesima” Sundays, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is used instead.)

- P** Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD!
- C** O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- P** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 566 By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's
condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Sermon

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

Stand
Offertory

LSB 192



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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Stand
Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P To the Master of the vineyard who has called us into His care and whose grace is beyond all telling, that He would keep us from all grumbling, from the evil of envy and from unbelief; and that He would give us contentment and a firm trust in His perfect provision, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that God would send forth laborers into His harvest and sustain those whom He has sent; and for all believers, that mindful of God's gracious favor which He has bestowed on us in the Beloved, we may serve Him dutifully in our vocations and proclaim the Gospel with joy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the home, that God would work graciously by the teaching and example of fathers and mothers to preserve the faith of children and to help them grow in it until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the civil authorities, whom God has established on earth to be a blessing, that He would enable them to serve with wisdom and integrity, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those in need of our prayers, [*especially* _____,] that God would grant them confidence in His care and ease all their sorrows, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who commune this day, that God would grant us repentant hearts, true faith in His promises and unity of confession; and that we would be strengthened through the forgiveness of sins for a life that forsakes sin and idleness and lives in joyful service to our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Holy Word You have called us into Your vineyard. Send, we pray, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may labor faithfully in Your vineyard, and trust always in Your grace, which You have bestowed upon us in abundance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

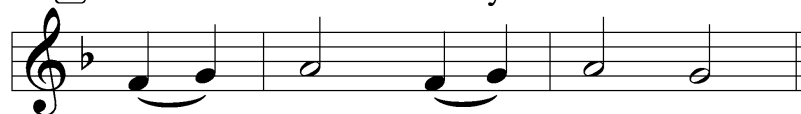
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, 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 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

LSB 196

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

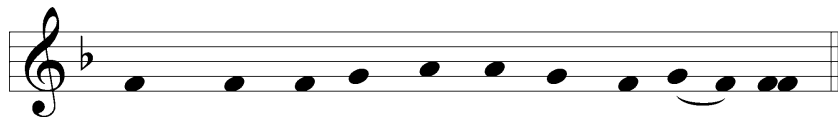
LSB 197

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 197



Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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: 523 O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

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Distribution Hymn: 696 O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com-mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun-sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small

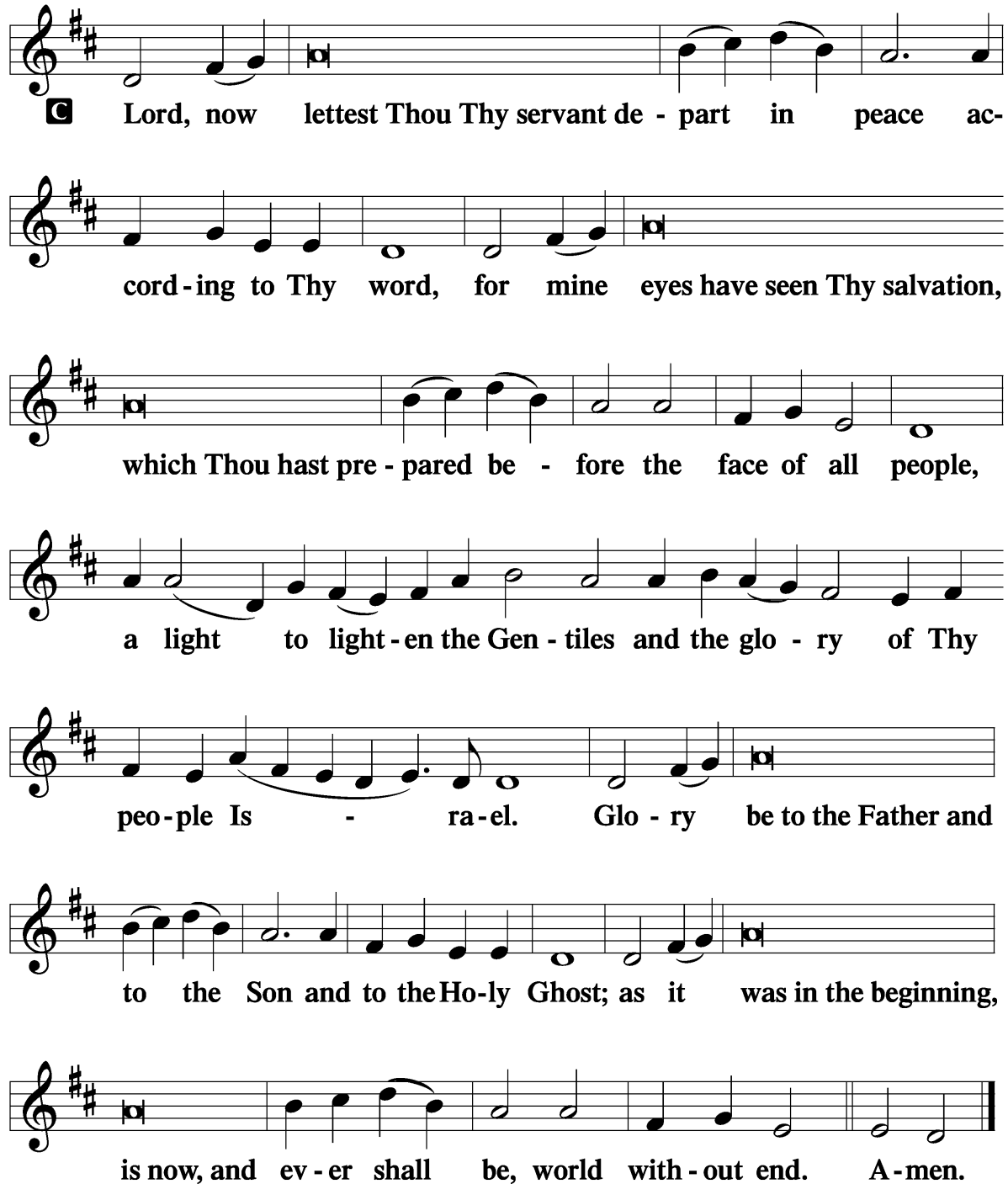


A con-science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

- 5 Let me depart this life
 Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
 That it may live forever;
And let my body have
 A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
 And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day
 When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
 My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
 Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
 With those who love Your name.

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

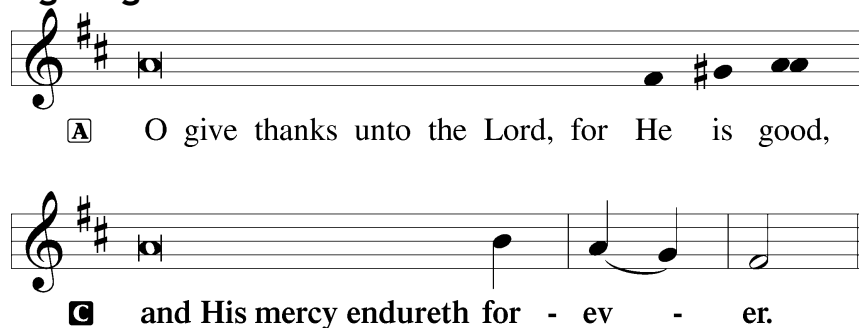
LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



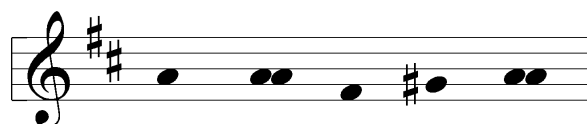
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



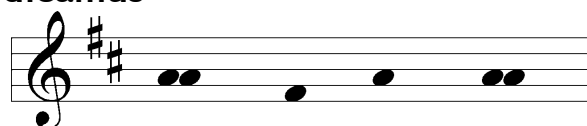
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



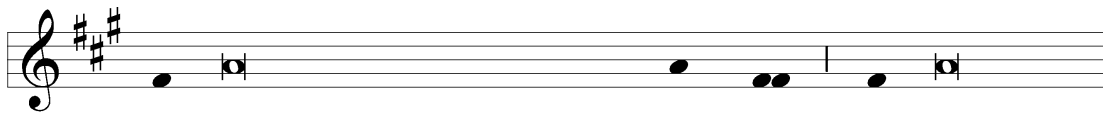
A Bless we the Lord.



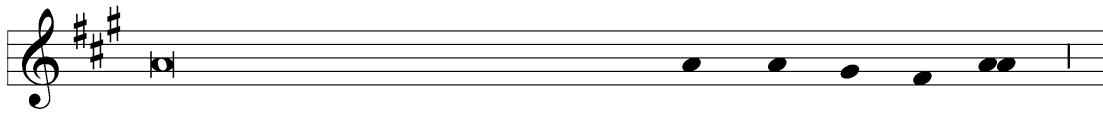
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

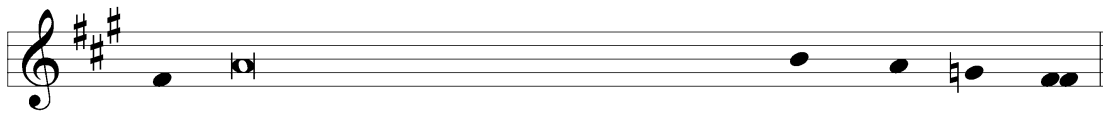
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

sts. 6–10

6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-
 7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be
 8 The Law re - veals the guilt of sin And makes us con-science-
 9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un-
 Δ 10 All bless-ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
 bro - ken; Your call rings out, “Come un - to Me!” No
 strick - en; But then the Gos - pel en - ters in The
 ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With
 Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All

build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
 false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your
 sin - ful soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust
 love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can
 glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in

Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
 pre - cious name, My faith can - not be
 Christ, and live; The Law no peace can
 jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor
 heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your

life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
 put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.
 ev - er give, No com - fort and no bless - ing.
 and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.
 sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/31** **Septuagesima**
• **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Mon. 2/1** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 2/2** **Groundhog Day**
Pastor out of office in p.m.
Board of Elders' Meeting 7 p.m.
- Wed. 2/3** **Adult Bible Class** 7 p.m.
- Fri. 2/5** **Secretary Debbie Off**
- Sat. 2/6** **Men's Bible Study** 9 a.m. at St. Mark's
- Sun. 2/7** **Sexagesima**
• **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1. Hand sanitizer will be distributed at the entryway, as well as before and after 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!

NOTE REGARDING OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERVICES: 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.

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS – **Each week**, our **Wednesday evening** Adult Bible Class meets at 7 p.m., and all are welcome to attend! Pastor will continue teaching on the book of Genesis. Please join him for this interesting and educational study!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – All men are welcome to join Pastor Vergin for our monthly Men's Bible Study class this **Saturday, February 6** from 9-10:30 a.m. A free breakfast will be available. Bring your friends and your Bible!

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS AND DEVOTIONS AVAILABLE – Our 2021 Lenten Coin Holders are now located on the table in the entryway. The donations from these will be sent to Bethesda Lutheran Communities, a non-profit Lutheran organization that helps people with developmental disabilities across the U.S. Just place one quarter each day during Lent into the corresponding slot (excluding Sundays which are celebrated as "Mini-Easters" and are IN Lent, but not OF Lent) and by Easter Sunday, your holder will be FULL! Also, Lenten Devotional Booklets, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, will be located on the table in the back of the sanctuary starting sometime this week. The devotions start with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Please feel free to take one home for personal devotions throughout the season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS COMING UP! Please make plans now to come to church on **Ash Wednesday, February 17!** Our Divine Service will take place at 7 p.m. and will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish to receive them. Plans are also being made to possibly have our usual free Soup & Salad Supper beforehand (details to come). We hope you will join us on February 17!

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!

INVISIBLE DAD LUNCH PROGRAM AT KEITH ELEM. – Although area schools will not be resuming in-person classes until sometime down the road, St. Mark's will continue to receive coin donations to help support Keith Elementary's "Invisible Dad" lunch program. This helpful program, started by a dad at Keith, 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 only a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). A clear, glass jar will be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary in early January where you can continue to deposit any spare change you might have in order to help support this program. When school starts up again, the contents of the jar will be brought to the principal's office at Keith Elementary. Thanks in advance for your support!

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.**

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.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

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|---|-------------------------------|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Aaron Vergin |
| Acolyte (<i>either service</i>) | Jay Anderson |
| Altar Guild | Barb Allen |
| Elder on Duty (<i>both services</i>) | Tom LoCascio |
| Greeters (<i>either service</i>) | Sharon Williams |
| Offering Counters (<i>after late service</i>) | Mary Lockwood & Jean Swainson |
| Organist (<i>both services</i>) | Rob Wheeler |
| Trumpeter (<i>either service</i>) | Chris Gerard |
| Usher (<i>both services</i>) | Matt Maier |
| Video Technician (<i>either service</i>) | Jim O’Brien |