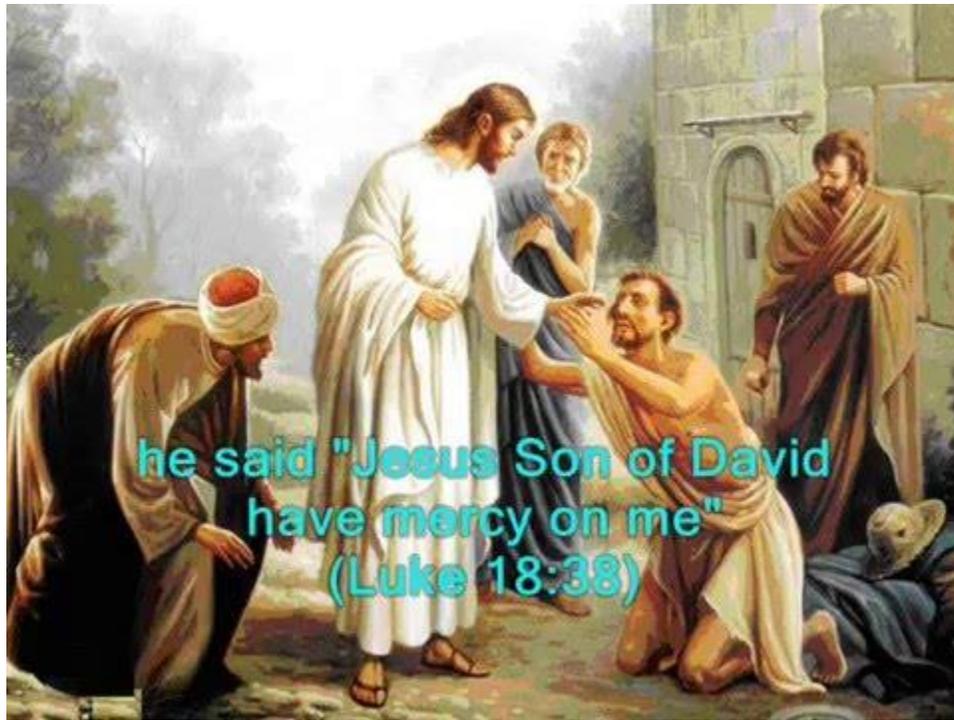


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: info@stmarkwb.org
Website: www.stmarkwb.org



Quinquagesima Sunday

23 February A D 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Quinquagesima Sunday. On this day, we focus on the Biblical theme of love. While God created us in the beginning to love Him and to love one another, we quickly fell away from that love, to our own condemnation. However, even in our sin our Creator's love toward us remains, and so He sent His Son Jesus to die in our place, that His love might be our salvation and that in Christ we might be renewed to love once more.

If you are a VISITOR here, 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.

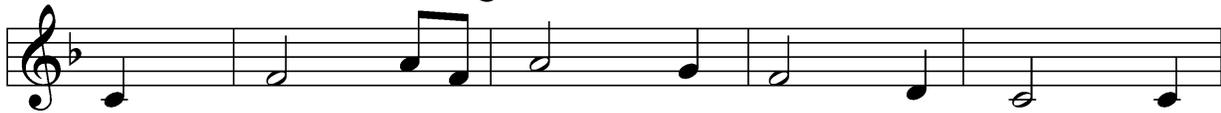
C Amen.

Stand

Sharing of the Peace

Those who wish may stand and share Christ's Peace with one another by offering a handshake and the words, "Christ's peace be with you."

Hymn of Invocation: 744 Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 31:1, 5, 9, 16; antiphon: vv. 2b-3

- P** Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
- C** **For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**
- P** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
- C** **Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**
- P** Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.
- C** **Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!**

**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** Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
- C** **For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**

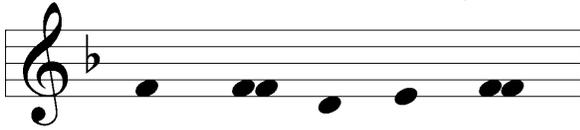
Kyrie

Mark 10:47

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, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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 35:3–7

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 77:14–15

- P** You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known your might among the peoples.
- C** **You with your arm redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

Stand Tract

Psalm 100:1–3

(During Lent, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is used instead.)

- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- C** **Know that the LORD, he is God!**
**It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 18:31–43

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

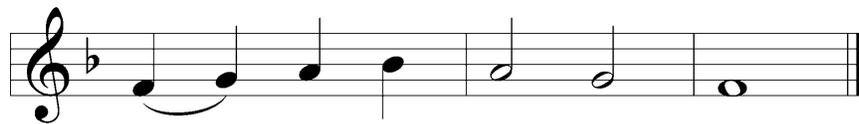


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³¹Taking the twelve, [Jesus] said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. ³³And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” ³⁴But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” ⁴²And Jesus said to him, “Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.” ⁴³And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

Children's Message

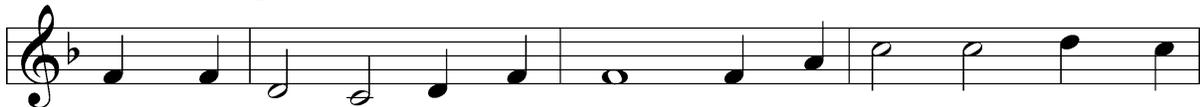
Hymn of the Day: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Sermon

Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.

Stand

Offertory

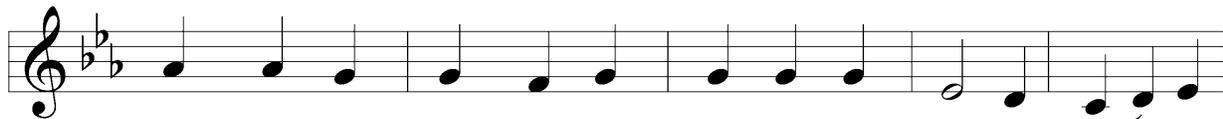
Psalm 51:10–12



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



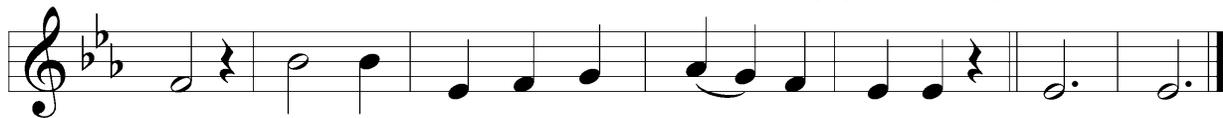
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



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.

Rite of Confirmation

Candidate: Melanie Schwiesow

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Remember, Lord, Your promise to be a rock of refuge for Your baptized children. Be gracious to us. Create in us humble and contrite hearts, that we might always cry out to You for mercy. Fill us with Your love, and grant us grace to follow Christ, our Savior, with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, Matthew, our Synod president; David, our district president; Terry, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Make Your face shine on them so that, through their faithful service, the eyes of those blind to Your mercies may be opened to see the salvation of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember, Lord, our nation and its leaders. Guide them in the direction You would have them go, that peace and prosperity, truth and justice, religion and piety may dwell in our land. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember, Lord, the widows and orphans, the lonely and downtrodden, the poor and destitute, and our brothers and sisters in Christ who are shut in and unable to attend the Divine Service with us. Be a mighty fortress for them, surrounding them with Your compassion and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember, Lord, those who are sick, hospitalized, in treatment, undergoing surgery or recovering, and all who are in need [*especially _____*]. Comfort them with Your presence, sustain their faith through Your gracious promises, and bring healing to them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember, Lord, those who come to the holy altar this day to receive the medicine of immortality in the Holy Supper. Fill all who partake of Your Son's very body and blood with His life and love, that they may depart in His peace, which surpasses all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember, Lord, Your promise to fill the wedding banquet of Your Son and His Bride, the Church, with guests clothed in white robes. For those who have gone before us and now rest from their labors, we give You thanks and praise. Bring us, with them, to the day of our Lord's glorious return, that we may all receive the eternal inheritance You have prepared for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1 Psalm 136



P The Lord be with you.



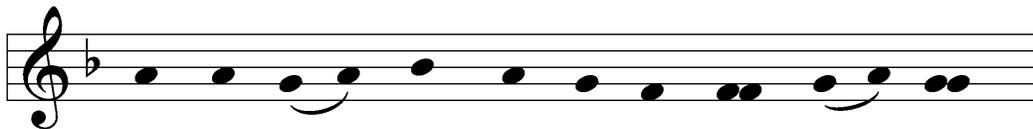
C And with thy spir - it.



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.

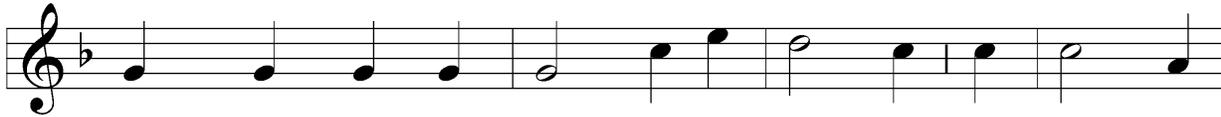
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him,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

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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

Matthew 6:9–13

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

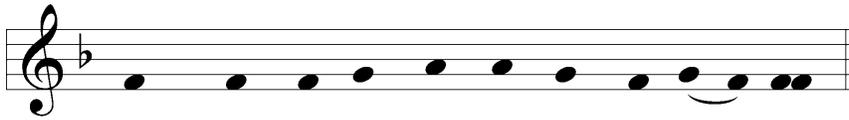
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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

John 20:19



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



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



G 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 Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Distribution Hymn: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,

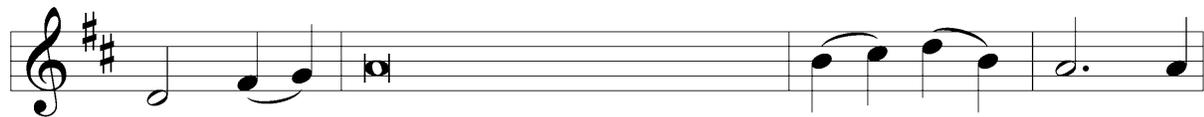


May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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Stand
Nunc Dimittis

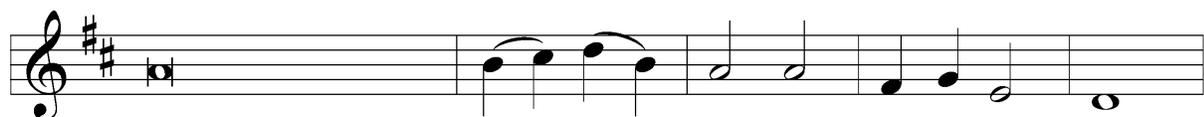
Luke 2:29-32



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



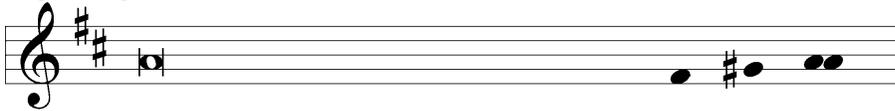
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



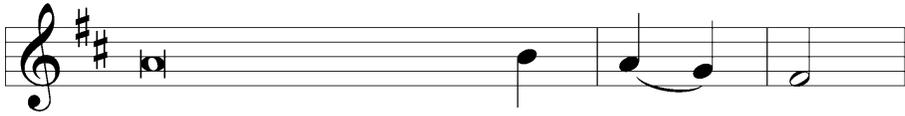
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve 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.



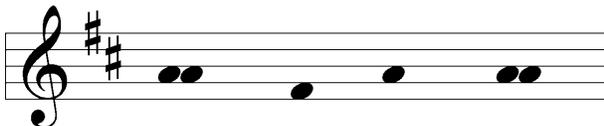
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



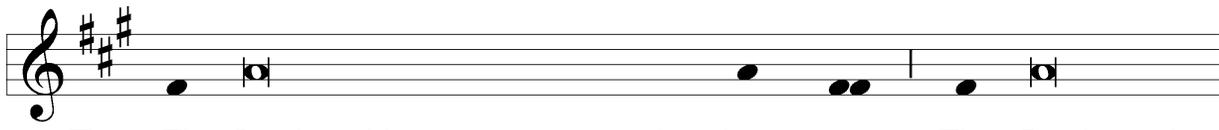
A Bless we the Lord.



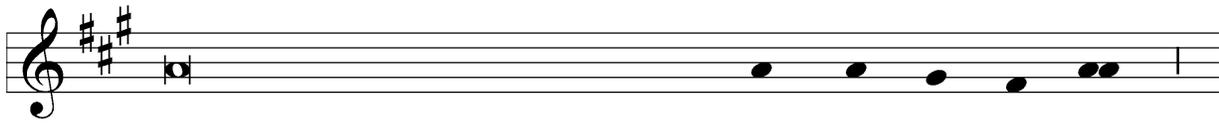
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

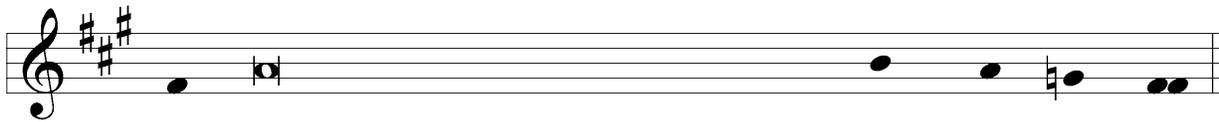
Numbers 6:24-26



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.

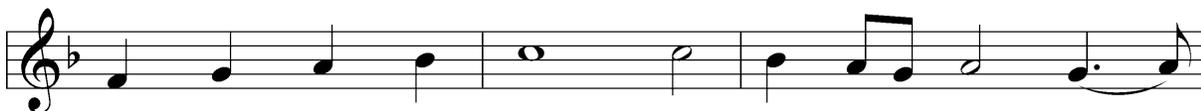


C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 841 O Son of God, in Galilee



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
You their care; Your grace to them make known.
Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 2/23** **Quinquagesima**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Sunday School for Children** 10:45 a.m., Library
- Mon. 2/24** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 2/25** **Pastor out of office in p.m.**
- Wed. 2/26** **Ash Wednesday Soup/Salad Supper** 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Divine Service with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes 7 p.m.
- Fri. 2/28** **Confirmation Class B** 4 p.m., Library
- Sun. 3/1** **First Sunday in Lent**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Sunday School for Children** 10:45 a.m., Library

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ADULT BIBLE CLASS – All are welcome to join Pastor Vergin **at 10:45 a.m. this morning** in the basement Fellowship Hall for Adult Bible Study. Throughout February, Pastor will continue to teach on the book of Joshua. The book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament and picks up after the death of Moses, when the people of Israel have at last come to the border of the Promised Land after forty years of wandering in the wilderness. The book recounts the various battles of the people of God, beginning with the fall of Jericho, as they conquer the land of Canaan, in fulfillment of God's gracious promise to Abraham that His offspring would inherit the land. So please come! This book has much to teach us about the ways of God in Christ and how He now works through His Church to overthrow the kingdom of Satan by the preaching of the Gospel, so that His people might at last inherit the true Promised Land of heaven. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – All kids age 4-10 are welcome to attend our Sunday School class **today starting at 10:45 a.m.** in the Library. Here, children will join with others kids to learn the stories of the faith and the Truth of Christ in a fun and age-appropriate setting. Please consider getting your children or grandchildren involved in this program! We'd love to have them there!

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS AND DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS – Our 2020 **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 into the corresponding slot each day during Lent (except Sundays which are celebrated as “Mini-Easters” and are **IN** Lent, but not **OF** Lent) and by Easter Sunday, your holder will be **FULL!** Filled coin holders can then be placed into the offering plates on Easter morning (or before or after Easter, if you prefer). Also, please notice that there are **Lenten Devotional Booklets** sitting on the back table in the sanctuary (purple-colored paper). Feel free to take one home with you by Ash Wednesday and use them to do personal devotions at home all during the season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK - Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a 40-day period of repentance in which we prepare our hearts and minds to remember Jesus’ suffering and death and then to celebrate with joy His resurrection. Ash Wednesday inaugurates this season with a special focus on our sin and its consequences, as well as a joyous proclamation of Jesus’ salvation. All are invited to attend our **Ash Wednesday Divine Service this Wednesday, February 26**, at 7 p.m. It will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. Prior to the service, from 5:30 - 6:30, we will hold our traditional **Soup and Salad Supper**. This supper is open to all at no cost. Come and enjoy some delicious food and fellowship!

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES COMMENCING IN MARCH - Once we enter into the season of Lent, we will begin holding our traditional Lenten midweek services. These services will be held on Wednesdays during Lent (**March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1**) and will begin at 7 p.m. Here, we will be following a series from Concordia Publishing House titled *Eyes on Jesus*. Please join us! We look forward to worshipping the Lord with you!

UPCOMING LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE - As you may know, we are currently projecting a financial shortfall for St. Mark’s for this year. Therefore, the congregational leaders have put together a plan to help ensure, with God’s blessing, that we can get back to a sustainable financial situation, in order that the Gospel might continue to be preached here for years to come. As part of this plan, we will be holding a Stewardship Pledge Drive during the season of Lent. Here, congregational members and families are asked to prayerfully consider their personal resources and to make a pledge to increase their regular offerings according to their ability. Pledge forms have recently been mailed out to member households. Completed forms should be returned during the season of Lent (**February 26-March 29**). A box will be provided on the back table of the sanctuary for completed forms, along with envelopes to seal the forms and extra copies of the Pledge Form. All forms will remain confidential and will not be opened or viewed. During the Divine Service on Sunday, March 29, these pledges will be presented to the Lord with prayer and thanksgiving. Please join us in this pledge drive! Can we count on you?

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME – On **Sunday, March 8**, we will “spring forward” into Daylight Saving Time. Don’t forget to turn your clocks forward one hour on that day!

SEEKING SINGERS & MUSICIANS FOR EASTER – We are currently seeking handbell ringers (youth and adult), as well as instrumentalists and singers to participate in our Easter Sunday festival Divine Service on April 12. If you'd like to help, please let Debbie LoCascio know as soon as possible! You can call her in the church office during the week at (248) 363-0741, or send her an email at: debbie@stmarkwb.org. Adult handbell practices are scheduled to start on **Monday, March 9** at 7:30 p.m. and continue through April 6. Youth bell practice will begin on **Sunday, March 15** starting at 10:45 a.m. and will continue through April 5. The more musicians and singers we can get for this joyous worship service, the better! Won't you join us?

NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Attention men of St. Mark's! We will be holding our next monthly Men's Bible Study on **Saturday, March 14** from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the back room of the Greek Jalapeno Restaurant located at 6636 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. There, we will enjoy a breakfast together and then continue our study of the book of Acts. We'd love to have you there! This is a great opportunity to gather as men of God around His holy Word and to be formed together in the image of Christ! Please remember to bring your Bible.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK ON MARCH 22 – In anticipation of Easter, we will be holding a Neighborhood Prayer Walk on **Sunday, March 22** starting at Noon. All of our church members and friends are welcome to participate! We will set out from church after Adult Bible Class that day and walk through the neighborhood located behind our church. As we walk, we will stop along the road every so often and pray for the people there, that God would bring them to a knowledge of His truth and to His salvation. This is an excellent way to serve our community and to witness to Christ and His love. The length of the walk will be about 1 mile, though you may stop earlier if necessary. Please join us if you can!

SEEKING A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER – We are currently seeking someone who loves Jesus, children, and teaching to be our new Sunday School teacher. Sunday School takes place each week on Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:45 a.m. starting the Sunday after Labor Day and going through the end of May. Our current Sunday School teacher is looking to hand off this important job to a volunteer who isn't already serving here in several other church positions, and has the time to devote to developing the weekly lessons. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please contact Mandy Vergin, Chairperson of the Youth & Family Board, at amanda.vergin@gmail.com, or call her at (586) 924-0125.

CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT KEITH ELEMENTARY – We are in the initial stages of developing a working relationship with the staff and students at Keith Elementary (located around the corner from St. Mark's). Upon first contact with their principle, she let us know that they are in desperate need of 2 crossing guards to work Monday through Friday from 8:30-9 a.m. and from 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. The rate of pay is \$12 per hour. One guard will work at the corner of Keith Road & Commerce Road, and other guard at Keith Road and Willow Road. To get additional information, contact Keith at (248) 956-3700. To apply online, visit: https://ats4.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app_login?COMPANY_ID=JA000529.

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.

QUILTING GROUP STILL SEEKING DONATIONS OF SHEETS/BLANKETS – St. Mark’s quilting group meets every other Thursday in the basement fellowship hall starting at 10 a.m. Their next meeting will take place this Thursday, February 20. They continue to need gently-used sheets and blankets to be used in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you’d like to donate sheets and/or blankets, please leave them in the Quilt Donations Box in the lobby.

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.**



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

Jay Anderson

Altar Guild

Dorothy Vermeersch

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Julie & Kari Kosmalski

Offering Counters

Cindy Parks & Joanne Wisti

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

John Reardon & John Sidelinker

Video Technician

Kim Olsen