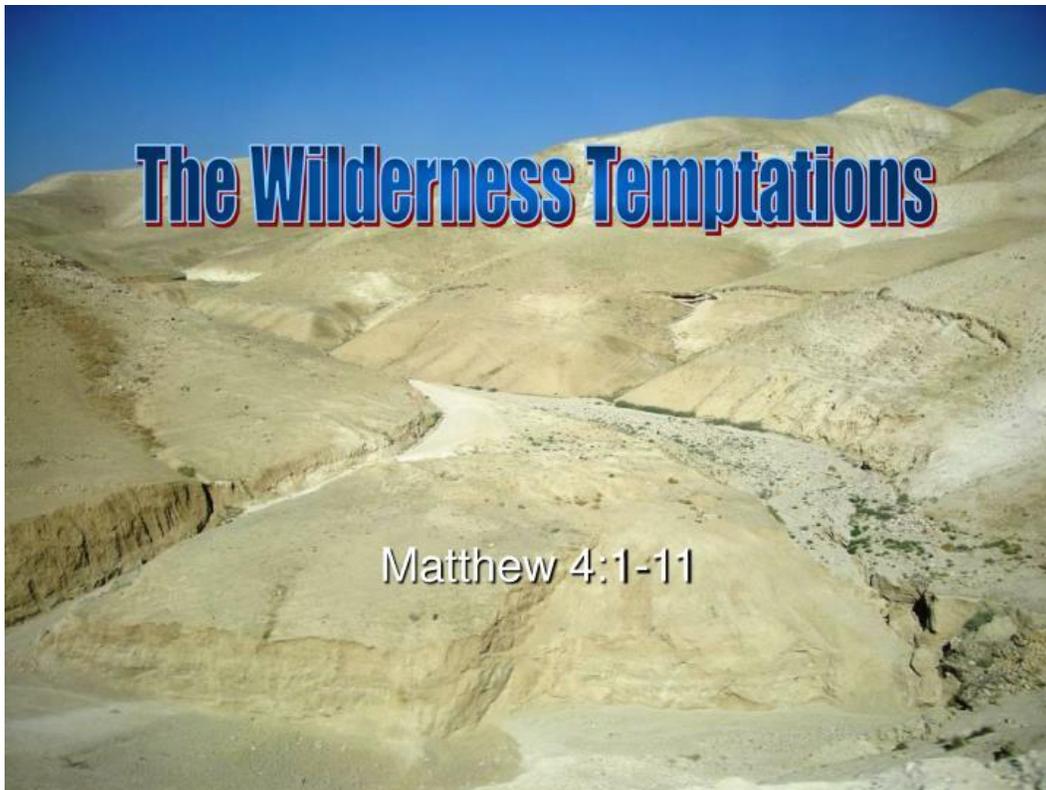


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



The First Sunday in Lent

1 March A✠D 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the First Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on the victory of Jesus over the devil, which He accomplished for us through His death and resurrection. On our own, we cannot stand against the devil's schemes. However, Jesus stood perfectly against Satan in our place, conquering Him by the blood of His cross, that we might be saved through faith. In this way, the victory is ours and we can walk confidently every day.

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 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.

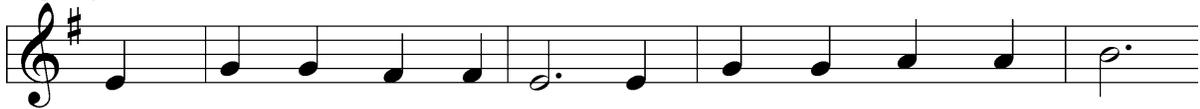
C Amen.

Stand

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."

Opening Hymn: 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–10, 13; antiphon: vv. 15a, c, 16

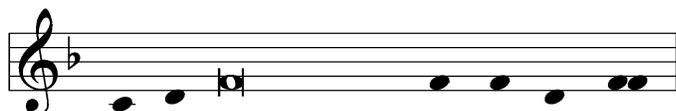
- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**
- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** **I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”**
- P** Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** **no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**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** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**

Kyrie

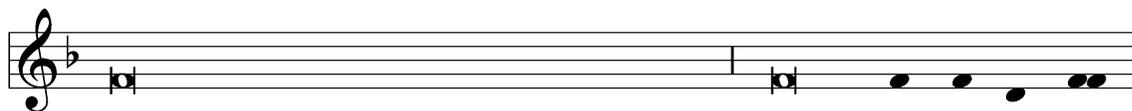
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



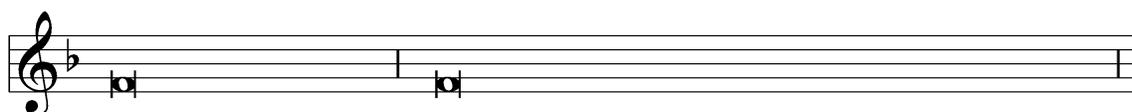
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



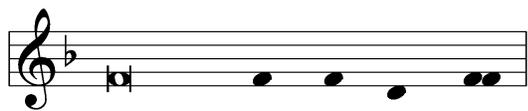
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



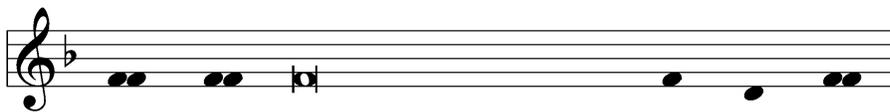
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



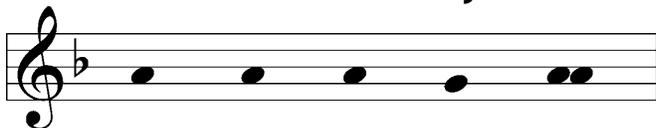
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

(During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted here.)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,

‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 91:11–12

P He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

C **On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 6:1–10

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

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

Psalm 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16

- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge.
- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble.
- C** With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,
“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,’ and
“On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.””

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,
“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



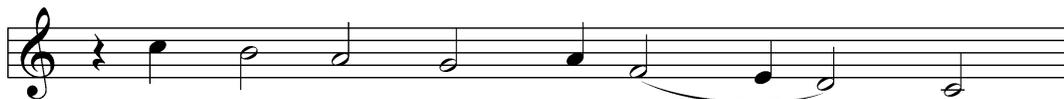
1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

During the season of Lent, the Apostles' Creed is confessed.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Rite of Profession of Faith

Candidates: Carolyn Achimov, Tom & Helga Gonzalez

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

For all believers, that they would dwell in the shelter of the Most High through faith and continue to receive with joy God's forgiveness and salvation through His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors in Christ, that they would commend themselves as servants of God and, by truthful speech and the power of God, preach the Gospel of Jesus with conviction and urgency, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those being tempted to doubt, that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and find comfort, peace and assurance in the One who overcame Satan's temptations in the wilderness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Donald, our president; Gretchen, our governor; and all those who serve us at the federal, state and local levels of government, that they would serve with integrity and honor, and for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and shut-in, the hospitalized and recovering, and for all those currently undergoing trials and tribulations in this vale of tears, [*especially _____,*] that they would be comforted by the sure and certain promise that nothing can separate them from the love of God, which is theirs through Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who come to the holy altar this day, that they would receive the very body and blood of Christ in repentance and faith, with reverence and awe, and to their abundant blessing, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all the faithful who have departed this world in faith, let us give thanks to the Lord; and for those of us who remain in this valley of the shadow of death, that God's holy angels would be with us, so that the evil foe may have no power over us, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Sit
Offering

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

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



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

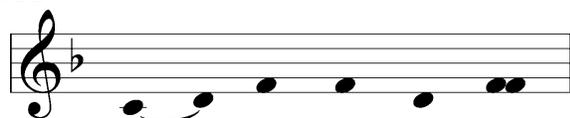


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- 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

Matthew 6:9–13

- 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."

Distribution Hymn: 531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus



1 Hail, Thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, Thou Gal - i -
2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, All our sins on
3 Je - sus, hail! En - throned in glo - ry, There for - ev - er
4 Wor - ship, hon - or, pow'r, and bless - ing Thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst
Thee were laid; By al - might - y love a - noint - ed, Thou hast
to a - bide; All the heav'n - ly hosts a - dore Thee, Seat - ed
to re - ceive; High - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, Right it



free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, Thou u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior,
full a - tone - ment made. All Thy peo - ple are for - giv - en
at Thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners Thou art plead - ing;
is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic spir - its,



Bear - er of our sin and shame! By Thy mer - it
Through the vir - tue of Thy blood; O - pened is the
There Thou dost our place pre - pare, Ev - er for us
All your no - blest an - thems raise; Help to sing our



we find fa - vor: Life is giv - en through Thy name.
gate of heav - en, Rec - on - ciled are we with God.
in - ter - ced - ing Till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
Sav - ior's mer - its, Help to chant Im - man - uel's praise!

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Distribution Hymn: 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and
4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our
deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our



curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend
Until we reach our journey's end.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- 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
- Mon. 3/2** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 3/3** **Pastor out of office in p.m.**
Board of Elders Meeting 7 p.m., Library
- Wed. 3/4** **Confirmation Class A** 4:00 p.m.
Midweek Vespers Worship Service 7 p.m.
- Thu. 3/5** **Quilting Bee** 10 a.m.
Secretary Debbie Off
- Fri. 3/6** **Confirmation Class B** 4 p.m., Library
Secretary Debbie Off
- Sun. 3/8** **Second Sunday in Lent**
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
- **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
 - **Board of Family & Youth Meeting** 12:00 p.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. This month, 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 – We invite all children ages 4-10 to attend our weekly Sunday School class that **starts 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!

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS AND DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS – Our 2020 **Lenten Coin Holders** are now located on the table in the entryway. (If they are all gone, no worries! We'll be getting more in this week!) 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 and use them to do personal devotions at home during the season of Lent.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES TO COMMENCE THIS WEDNESDAY – Now that we have entered into the season of Lent, we will begin holding our traditional Lenten midweek services. The first one will be held this **Wednesday, March 4**, starting at 7 p.m. Subsequent midweek services will be held on March 11, 18, 25, and April 1. Here, we will be using the Service of Vespers while following a series from Concordia Publishing House titled *Eyes on Jesus*. Please join us! We look forward to worshipping the Lord with you!

OUR 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 are 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 were mailed out to member households a few weeks ago. Completed forms should be returned to the box on the table at the back of the sanctuary during the season of Lent (no later than March 29). Near the box, you will find envelopes to hold your completed form (please seal your envelope) 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!

REMINDER: Don't forget to periodically check out the BUDGET THERMOMETER located on the bulletin board outside of the church office to see how we're doing financially for 2020!

SEEKING SINGERS & MUSICIANS FOR EASTER – We are currently seeking handbell ringers (youth and adult), as well as instrumentalists and singers (e.g. duets, trios, quartets, etc.) 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 begin 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.

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR SPRING EASTER PLANTS - St. Mark's is, once again, accepting orders for spring plants that will be placed in/around the altar area for Easter. After Easter, those who purchased plants may take theirs home where they can then be planted in your garden. See today's pink bulletin insert for more information and/or to order a plant or two. All order forms with payment must be turned in to the church office no later than **March 29** (checks should be made payable to: St. Mark's Lutheran Church). Orders may be placed in honor, or in memory, of a loved one, and the names of these beloved folks will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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

Sophie Hurley

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

Tom Kaufman & Mel Maier

Video Technician

John Sidelinker