

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

14 March A.D. 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

† Welcome in the name of Jesus! †

Today we observe the Fourth Sunday in Lent. On this day, we consider how Jesus feeds our souls through His Word and Sacraments. Apart from Christ, we are left empty, unfulfilled, and finally lost. However, Jesus died and rose again for our salvation. And today, He comes to us to proclaim that salvation to us through the Word of the Gospel. In this way, Jesus feeds us, and sends us out day-by-day satisfied, filled, and truly alive.

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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

sts. 1–4



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
4 Heart - less scoff - ers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
shame-ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'ring,
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11b

P Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
 all you who love her;

C that you may drink deeply with delight
 from her glorious abundance.

P I was glad when they said to me,
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

C Our feet have been standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem!

P Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
 May they be secure who love you!

C For my brothers and companions' sake
 I will say, “Peace be within you!”

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 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
 all you who love her;

C that you may drink deeply with delight
 from her glorious abundance.

Kyrie

LSB 152

Musical notation for the Kyrie response. It consists of a single staff in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted half note. The lyrics "In peace let us pray to the Lord." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the Kyrie response. It consists of a single staff in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted half note. The lyrics "Lord, have mercy." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the Kyrie response. It consists of a single staff in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted half note. The lyrics "For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord." are written below the staff.

Musical notation for the Kyrie response. It consists of a single staff in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a dotted half note. The lyrics "Lord, have mercy." are written below the staff.

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.

NOTE: During Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted.

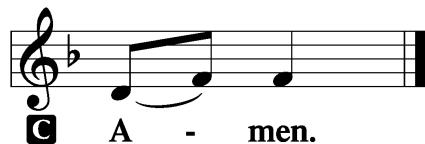
Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:8–13

⁸Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;
I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,

⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;
¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

¹²Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
for the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 122:1, 7

- P** I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- C** **Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!**

Second Reading

Acts 2:41–47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

Stand

Tract (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 125:1–2, 5b

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

- P** Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- C** **As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!**

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour,
O pride and pow'r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er
I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed (used during Lent)

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.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, our mother, through which God nourishes us and sustains our faith, that He would give her peace amid the turmoil and warfare of this world and cause us to rejoice in His goodness despite every cross and trial, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For ears to hear and hearts to trust God's Word, for contentment with what He provides and for cheerful hearts to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving, that we would neither grumble against His goodness nor refuse to heed His commands, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the merciful works of Christ's Church toward the poor and needy, that rooted in Christ's love for us, we may reflect and share that love with others, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation, that God would strengthen homes and keep families firm in the Christian faith; and that He would preserve our nation from wickedness and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who call in need upon God, our Shepherd, *[especially _____]*, that He would protect, comfort and guide them; that they would receive His healing and peace and so continue to serve Him with joy in this life; and that, finally, they would come to that good land in His eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune this day, that as God provided food from heaven for Israel during their days of wandering, so He would give us also the true food of heaven, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, to sustain us in faith and hope during our days of pilgrimage until at last we behold His glory with our own eyes, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

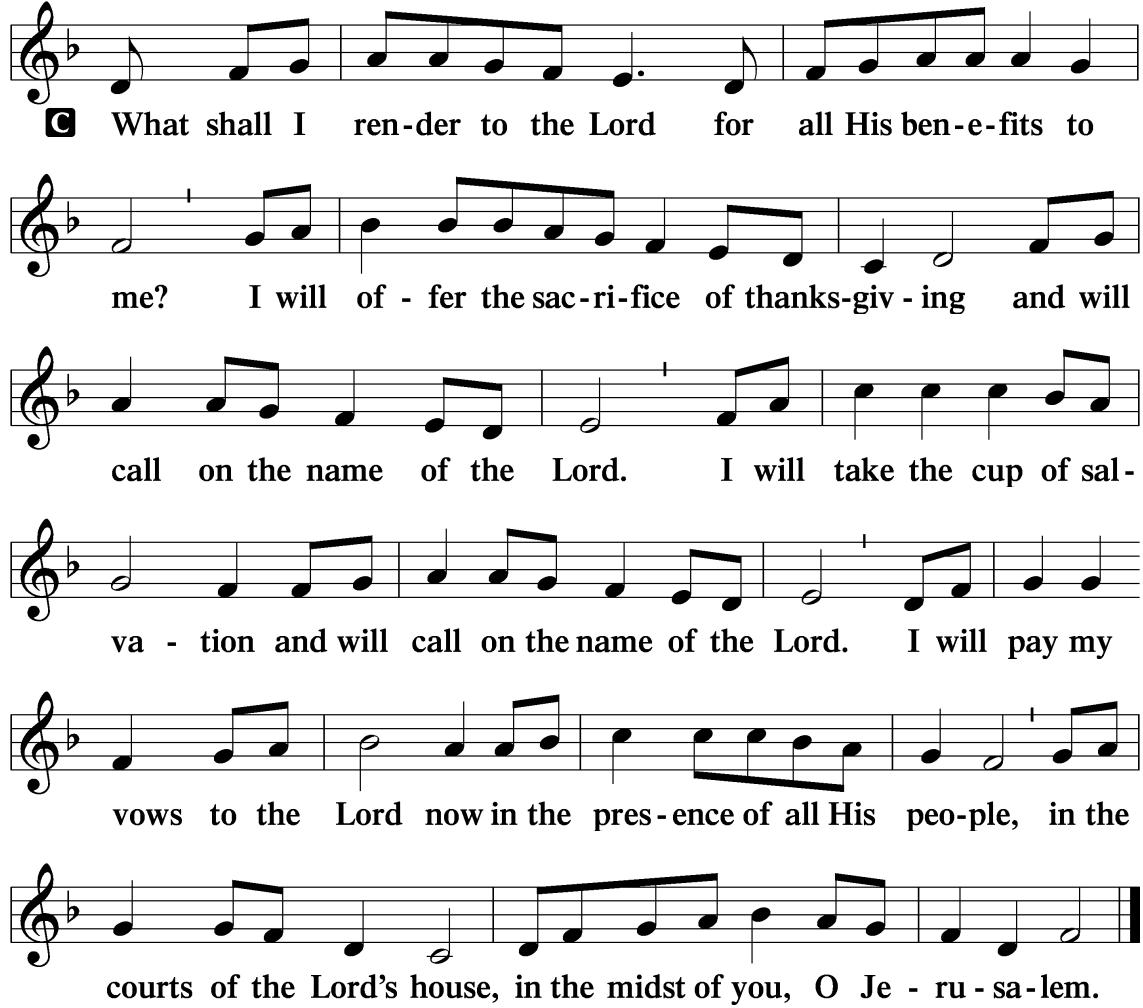
P Heavenly Father, Your Son multiplied bread and fish for thousands, showing Himself the Creator and Giver of every good gift. Multiply the gifts of body and soul that You provide for us from Your gracious hand, and cause us to receive all Your benefits with thanksgiving, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

Stand
Offertory

LSB 159

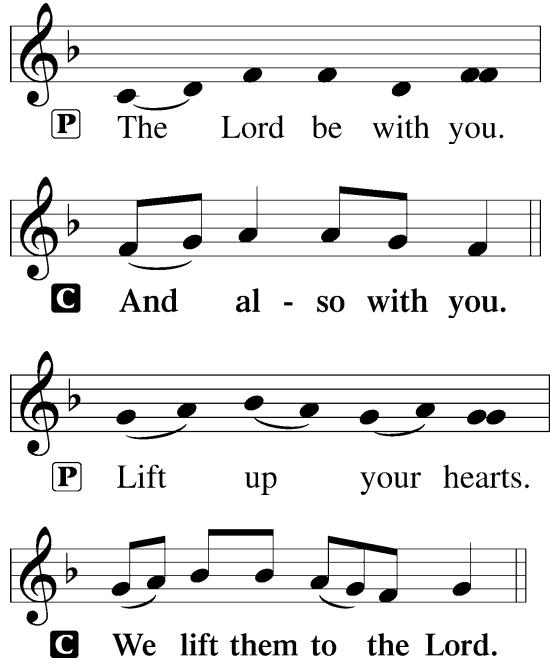


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

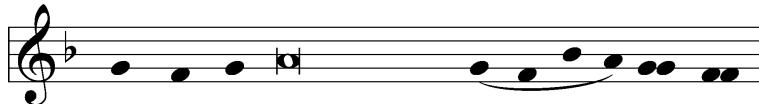
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



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

LSB 161



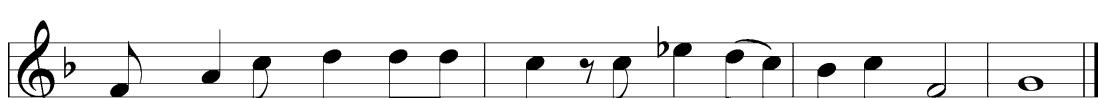
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



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

LSB 161

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

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast

of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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

C Our Father who art in heaven,

 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

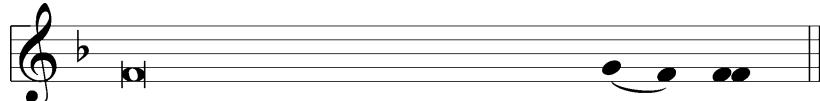
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My $\text{\tfrac{1}{}}\text{\tfrac{1}{}}$ 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 $\text{\tfrac{1}{}}\text{\tfrac{1}{}}$ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a G clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have" are written below the notes. The second staff continues with the same clef and key signature. The lyrics "mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the" are written below the notes. The third staff begins with a G clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the" are written below the notes. The fourth staff begins with a G clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics "sin of the world; grant us peace." are written below the notes. A brace underlines the last two staves.

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

Pre-Distribution Voluntary: *Largo* by Jean-Marie Leclair

Joanne Wisti, Violin

Distribution Hymn: 429 We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who
2 In - scribed up - on the cross we see In shin - ing
3 The cross! It takes our guilt a - way; It holds the
4 It makes the cow - ard spir - it brave And nerves the

died up - on the cross. The sin - ner's hope let
let - ters, "God is love." He bears our sins up -
faint - ing spir - it up; It cheers with hope the
fee - ble arm for fight; It takes the ter - ror

all de - ride; For this we count the world but loss.
on the tree; He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.
gloom - y day And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup.
from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

- 5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above.
- 6 To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

Tune and text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimitis

LSB 165

C Lord, now You let Your servant 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

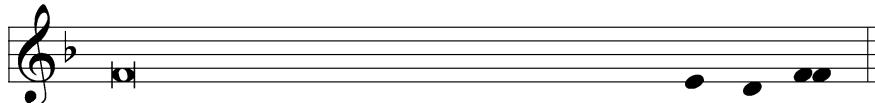
P Let us pray.

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.

Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and **†** give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

sts. 5–7



5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise Thee, That from pain I
6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion And hast borne it
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



might be free; False - ly did Thy foes ac - cuse Thee:
pa - tient - ly, E - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,
deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty; Com - fort - less Thy
Ful - ly to a - tone for me; Thou didst choose to
I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.
be tor - ment - ed That my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
For that last tri - umphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/14 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Daylight Saving Time begins
 - Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
 - (short) Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
 - Neighborhood Prayer Walk 11 a.m.
- Mon. 3/15 Pastor's Day Off**
Adult Handbell Practice at 7:00 p.m.
- Tue. 3/16 Pastor out of the office in the p.m.**
Church Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 3/17 St. Patrick's Day**
Midweek Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
Choir practice at 7:45 p.m.
- Fri. 3/19 Deadline to submit April's newsletter articles**
- Sat. 3/20 First Day of Spring**
Youth Handbell Practice at 10 a.m.
“Socially-Distanced” Divine Service 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. 3/21 Fifth Sunday in Lent**
 - Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
 - Assemble/Distribute Easter invitations 10:45 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES – We hope you will continue to join us for midweek Lenten worship services (The Service of Vespers) on these upcoming **Wednesdays--March 17 & 24--** starting **at 7 p.m.** Pastor will be teaching on the “Return to the Lord” series. Please make plans now to attend!

CHOIR/BELL PRACTICES – The schedule for choir and handbell practices are as follows:

- Adult Handbells: Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
- Youth Handbells: Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.
- Choir: Wednesday evenings right after the midweek worship service

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK – St. Mark's is seeking volunteers to participate in a neighborhood Prayer Walk on **Sunday, March 14**. On this day, after our regular Divine Service, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a short Bible study. Afterward, weather permitting, we will go out into the neighborhood behind church as a group to walk through it and pray for the people there. This serves both as an aid to our prayer and as a public witness to our faith. We hope you will make plans now to join us for this important work! Accommodations will also be made for those unable to make the entire walk with us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER EASTER INVITATIONS – On **Sunday, March 21**, directly following the Divine Service, volunteers will be needed to meet in the Fellowship Hall to assemble Easter invitations for the neighborhood located behind St. Mark's. Afterward, we will need volunteers to go (in pairs) with pastor into the neighborhood to deliver the invitations by hanging them on people's doors (no knocking on doors, just hanging the invitations). If you'd like to help, please plan on meeting in the Fellowship Hall after church on the 21st!

NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR SPRING EASTER PLANTS – You can help beautify St. Mark's sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing beautiful, flowering, spring plants that will then be placed in and around the altar area that day. Following the Easter worship service, you may then take your plants home and transplant them into your garden. You can order plants in memory, or in honor, of a loved one, or just to help beautify the altar area for Easter. The names of your loved ones will then be included in the Easter morning bulletin. To place an order, simply complete the pink flower insert and place it and your payment into the offering plate **no later than March 21**. Only pre-paid orders will be accepted.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES – Holy Week is one of the most important times of the church year as it focuses on Jesus' saving work on the cross for the forgiveness of the world's sins. We hope that you will make plans now to come worship with your family and friends during these upcoming Holy Week services:

- March 28 – **Palm Sunday** Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
- April 1 – **Maundy Thursday** Divine Service at 7 p.m.
- April 2 – **Good Friday** Tenebrae Vespers at 7 p.m.
- April 4 – **The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter)** Divine Services at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

In between our two Easter worship services, **there will be a Children's Easter Egg Hunt** outdoors (weather permitting), or indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate. We hope you will join us for **all of the above** worship services!

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**.

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS ARE STILL 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! You may also choose to place any amount of cash, or a check (made payable to St. Mark’s) into the holder, as well. Then you can drop it into the offering plate. Also, Lenten Devotional Booklets, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one home for personal devotions throughout the season of Lent.

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!

DONATIONS FOR THE *INVISIBLE DAD* LUNCH PROGRAM TOTLED \$145.50! Thanks so much to everyone who donated to Keith Elementary School's Invisible Dad lunch program! Last week, we counted the money in the donation jar and it totaled \$145.50! A check has since been sent to Keith Elementary for that amount. The Invisible Dad lunch program was started a few years ago by a dad whose children attend Keith Elementary. The program keeps extra money in the school's Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student's personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can't afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered just a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). St. Mark's will continue to receive any loose change you might like to donate toward this program for next year. A clear, glass jar continues to be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary where you can drop any extra change or bills you might have. Thanks again for your generous support of this program!

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

LCMS EVENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

- **A Book Recommendation for Stewardship Education** – Dr. Rick Wolfram of our Michigan District LCMS recommends the following book as a good read regarding Christian stewardship: “Redeeming Money: How God Reveals and Reorients Our Hearts” by Paul David Tripp, published by Crossway in 2018. Tripp says, “This book is written to give you a fresh understanding of the world of money, the kind of understanding that results only when you take God’s words seriously. It’s meant to ignite change, the change that comes only when you run to the One who can do what you can’t do for yourself – rescue you from you.”
- **The LCMS Life Conference** will take place virtually on March 19 – 20 this year. The theme will be: “Making Disciples: Valuing Life.” Conference sessions will help you explore a distinctly Lutheran understanding of the sanctity of human life specifically as it pertains to 1) speaking for life in the public square; 2) caring for life in your community; and 3) teaching about human life. Participants will access the conference by live-streaming, watching on-demand videos, and engaging with speakers through question and answer opportunities. The cost per individual will be either \$20 (Basic) or \$40 (Premium) and a portion of these proceeds will go to Lutherans for Life. To register for the conference or learn more, visit: www.lcms-life.org.
- Concordia Seminary in St. Louis is offering a **Multiethnic Symposium** (online) on May 4 & 5 titled: “The Rest and the West: What the West Can Learn from Global South Christianity.” The symposium will address what the Global South can contribute to our thinking about practices in music, worship, missions, ethics and teaching theology as the church strives to become truly multi-ethnic. The registration fee is \$35 and the registration deadline is April 19. For more information, go to: csl.edu/multiethnic or call (314) 505-7286.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

Jay Anderson

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

John Sidelinker

Greeters

Julie & Kari Kosmalski

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & TBD

Organists

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Trent Johnson

Video Technician

Debbie Sidelinker

Violinist

Joanne Wisti