

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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The Third Sunday in Lent

(Oculi)

15 March A✠D 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Third Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on how Jesus sets us free from our spiritual captivity to sin and to Satan. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus overcame and bound the devil for us. And now He comes to us in grace to release us from our bondage with His powerful Word, that we, being forgiven of our sins, might serve Him forevermore in righteousness and truth.

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 (*temporarily suspended*)

NOTE: For health reasons, St. Mark's has temporarily suspended the Sharing of the Peace. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Hymn of Invocation: 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

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15–16

- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- P** To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- C** O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
- P** The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- C** Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- P** Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

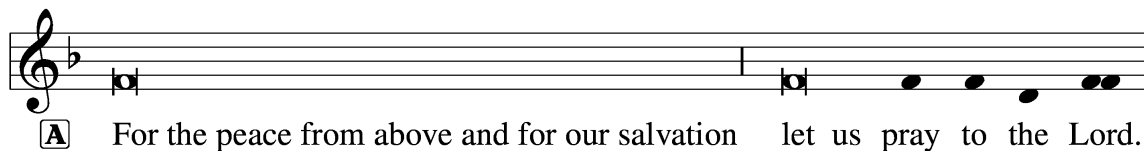
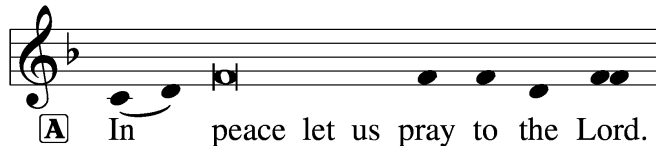
**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

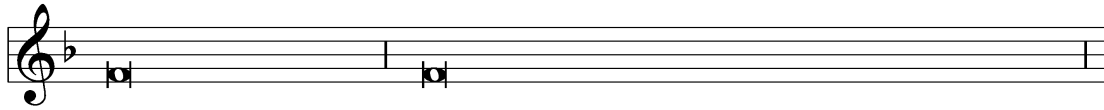
[P] My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

[C] Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.

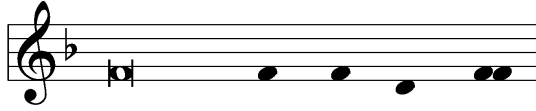
Kyrie

Mark 10:47





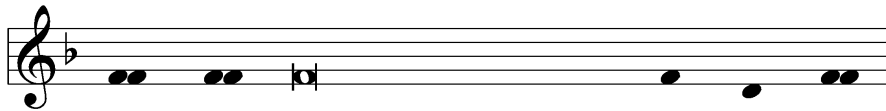
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



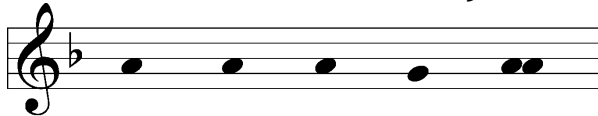
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



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 God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.”’” ²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 9:19, 3

P Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;
let the nations be judged before you!

C When my enemies turn back,
they stumble and perish before your presence.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1–9

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Tract

Psalm 123:1–3a

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

P To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

C Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

P Have mercy upon us, O LORD,
have mercy upon us.

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

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 the eyes of all the faithful to be ever turned toward the Lord, that they would see Him in His Holy Word and Sacraments, receive His grace and mercy, and walk as children of the light, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors in Christ, that they would preach the Gospel in its purity and administer the Sacraments according to Christ's institution; and for the Lord of the harvest to send more servants into the mission field, that the Gospel may be heard by all people everywhere, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our congregation, that we would be content in the Lord's gracious provisions, kept from greed and covetousness, filled with generosity in support of the Lord's work among us and abroad, and inspired to proclaim the salvation of Christ in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the unemployed and underemployed, that they would find suitable work to support themselves and their families; and for all of us, that we would find joy and contentment in our vocations, faithfully performing the duties to which we are called, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those who suffer with physical and mental ailments, [*especially those who have requested our prayers, including _____,*] that they would be given the strength to endure their afflictions, the grace to remember the Lord's steadfast love for them, and the relief they need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all the nations of the world as we seek to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, that the Lord would grant success speedily to those working to develop treatments, give wisdom to all in authority, strengthen and keep all healthcare workers, heal those who are sick, comfort all who have suffered loss, and uphold our economy and our social order in these difficult times in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who partake of the Holy Supper of Christ's very body and blood this day, that their sins would be forgiven, their faith strengthened and their hearts stirred up to walk in love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those who have gone before us in the faith and now rest from their labors, let us give thanks to the Lord; that we would abide in Christ until we, too, are called from this vale of tears, and that we would, with them, enter into the eternal kingdom of Christ on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P We lay these petitions before Your throne of grace, O Father, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

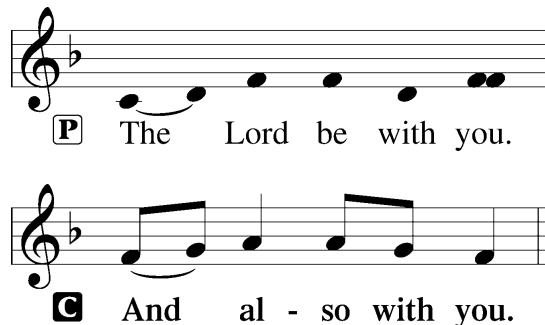


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, 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]



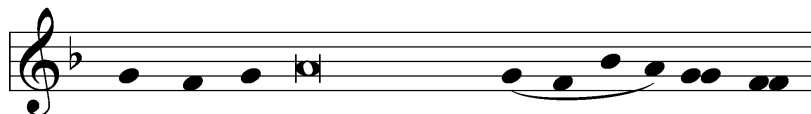
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



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.

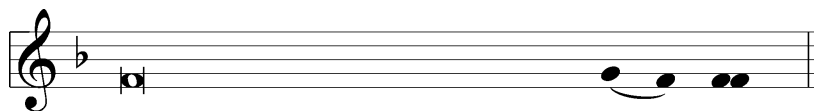
The Words of Our Lord

- 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."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



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



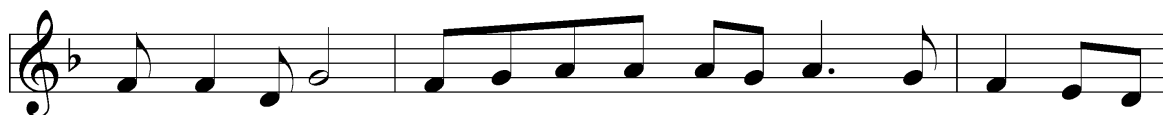
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



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



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



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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

For your health at Holy Communion:

- *Please space yourselves out at the communion rail*
- *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*
- *Hand sanitizer will be available as you depart from the Lord's Table*

Distribution Hymn: 663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
 4 Watch a - gainst your-self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
 5 But while watch-ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
 you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
 fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
 ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
 creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
 nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

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Distribution Hymn: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal 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

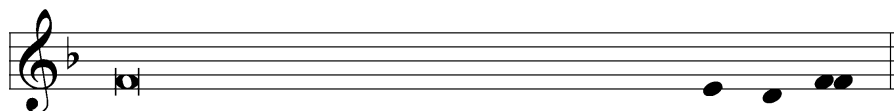
P Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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

Numbers 6:24–26



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.



A - men.

Closing Hymn: 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/15 Third Sunday in Lent**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Youth Handbell Practice** 10:45 a.m., Choir Loft
 - **Sunday School** 11:15 a.m., Library
- Mon. 3/16 Pastor's Day Off**
Adult Handbell Practice 7:30 p.m., Choir Loft
- Tue. 3/17 St. Patrick's Day**
Pastor out of office in p.m.
Council Meeting 7:30 p.m., Library
- Wed. 3/18 Confirmation Class A** 4:00 p.m.
Midweek Vespers Worship Service 7 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice 7:45 p.m., Choir Loft
- Thu. 3/19 Quilting Bee** 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Fri. 3/20 Confirmation Class B** 4 p.m., Library
Deadline to submit newsletter articles for April
- Sun. 3/21 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Youth Handbell Practice** 10:45 a.m., Choir Loft
 - **Sunday School** 11:15 a.m., Library
 - **Neighborhood Prayer Walk** 12 p.m.

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. 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). Thanks in advance for your support of Bethesda Lutheran Communities!

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES ON WEDNESDAYS – Our traditional Lenten midweek services will continue on **Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7 p.m.** 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 – Our Lenten Stewardship Pledge Drive will continue throughout the Season of Lent, culminating on Sunday, March 29. Pledge forms were mailed out to member households in late February. 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?

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!

QUILTING GROUP STILL SEEKING DONATIONS OF SHEETS/BLANKETS – St. Mark's quilting group meets every other Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Their next meeting will take place on **Thursday, March 19**. 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.

ACCEPTING COINS FOR *INVISIBLE DAD LUNCH PROGRAM* AT KEITH ELEM. – As we work to establish relationships with the staff and students of Keith Elementary, St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth has decided to help support Keith's "Invisible Dad" lunch program. This helpful program, started by a dad at Keith, keeps extra money in the school's Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student's personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can't afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered only a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). A clear, glass jar has now been placed on the table at the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit any spare change you might have in order to help support this program. When the jar gets mostly full, it will be emptied, wrapped in coin rolls, and brought to the principal's office at Keith Elementary. Thanks in advance for helping with this project!

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.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES – Easter will be here soon! We hope you will make plans now to join us for these upcoming Holy Week worship services:

- Palm Sunday Divine Service with Palm Procession - **April 5**, 7 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Divine Service with the Stripping of the Altar – **April 9**, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service (Service of Darkness) – **April 10**, 7 p.m.
- The Resurrection of our Lord (Easter) Divine Service – **April 12**, 9:30 a.m.

Our Easter Sunday service will be followed by our Easter Breakfast, and that will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT & FUN – As of now, St. Mark's is still planning to host our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event on **Saturday, April 11** from 2-4 p.m. ***However, we are also still considering whether or not this would be a safe event in relation to the Coronavirus, and will keep church members and friends posted should it become necessary to cancel.*** All children are invited to attend this fun event that will include egg painting, cookie decorating, games, a visit with the Easter bunny and of course, the egg hunt! Kids, feel free to bring your friends!

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. 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.

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!

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.

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

TBD

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Mary Lockwood

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

Scott Miller & Matt Maier

Video Technician

Debbie Sidelinker