

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

**"But when the Helper
comes, whom I will send
to you from the Father, the
Spirit of truth, who
proceeds from the Father,
he will bear witness about
me. And you also will bear
witness, because you have
been with me from the
beginning.
John 15:26-27**

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

(Exaudi)

24 May A~~X~~D 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I (Abridged)

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter. On this day, the Church acknowledges the reality of persecution and rejoices that we can face it with confidence through Christ. Indeed, we Christians will all face persecution, for we publicly bear the name of Jesus and walk by God's Spirit. However, in Christ's resurrection we have victory over death and can therefore face this tribulation with a cheerful and joyous spirit.

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.

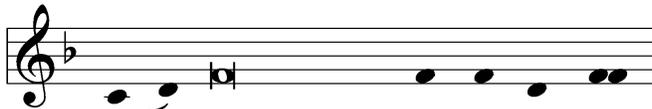
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

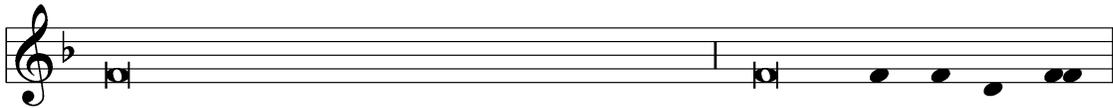
Mark 10:47



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.



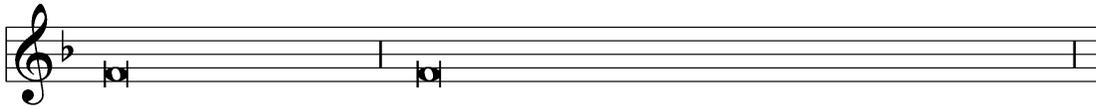
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



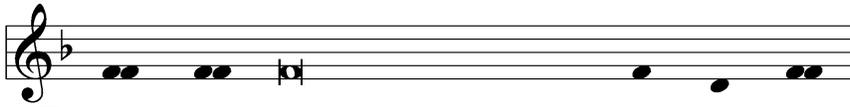
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:22–28

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 47:8; John 14:18a, 28; 16:22b

P Alleluia. God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. Alleluia.

C I will not leave you as orphans;
I am going away, and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:7–14

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:26—16:4

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermonette

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

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 whole Church, that in the confidence of faith, the baptized may bear witness to the grace of the Lord Jesus, regardless of the consequences, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For pastors and missionaries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would sound forth throughout the world, creating and sustaining faith in those who hear, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For this congregation, that the Spirit of truth would guide us into faithful devotion and service so that we would love one another; witness to Christ in our daily lives; grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior; and give our tithes and offerings to support His ministry and mission here and abroad, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For those who suffer for their witness to Christ, that they may be strengthened by the Spirit of truth to endure, and that they may rejoice and be glad when Christ's glory is revealed, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For our government and all leaders in this world, that they would serve faithfully according to the will of the true King and Lord, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For all who serve in our armed forces, the medical field and for all emergency workers, that entrusting themselves to Christ's protection they may know His saving peace, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For an end to the pandemic, and for comfort and protection to all those in central and northern Michigan affected by flood waters, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For all graduates, for those who set out to look for new employment and for those whose plans have been frustrated or disappointed, that their confidence may always be placed in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick, the afflicted, the dying, the mourning and the lonely, [*especially for those who have requested our prayers, including _____,*] that Christ Himself would be their health in sickness, their joy in sorrow and their life in death, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who come today to the Lamb's feast, that being made partakers of Christ's divine nature in the eating and drinking of His very body and blood, they would be filled with His life and peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful departed, let us offer thanks and praise, asking our heavenly Father to grant us all a share in the rest and peace of His Kingdom, 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, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



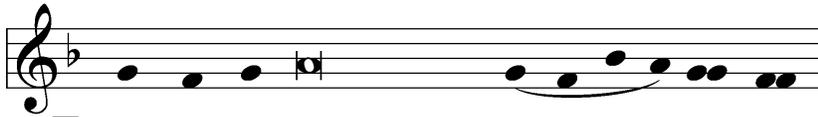
C And al - so with you.



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.

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.**

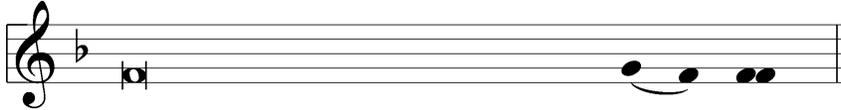
The Words of Our Lord

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.

Sit

Distribution

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

For your health and safety at Holy Communion:

- *Please remain in your pew to receive Holy Communion*
- *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*

Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

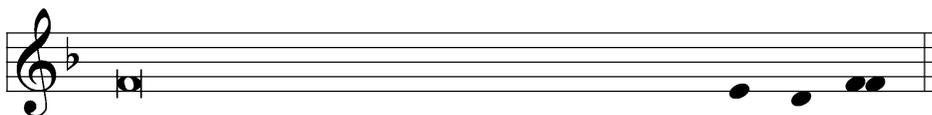
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your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



C A - men.

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.



C A - men.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 5/24 The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
- **Divine Service** at 9:00 a.m. (those whose last names begin with A – L)
 - **Divine Service** at 10 a.m. (those whose last names begin with M – Z)
- Mon. 5/25 Memorial Day – Church Office closed.**
- Tue. 5/26 Pastor's day off (moved due to the holiday)**
- Fri. 5/29 June's newsletter distribution**
- Sun. 5/31 The Day of Pentecost**
- **Divine Service** at 9:00 a.m. (those whose last names begin with A – L)
 - **Divine Service** at 10 a.m. (those whose last names begin with M – Z)

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MORNING'S ALTAR FLOWERS were placed to the glory of God by Barb Allen in memory of her husband, Nathan Allen. We thank Barb for this floral tribute. The following people also donated to the Altar Flower Fund during the period of time that St. Mark's wasn't offering worship services due to COVID-19:

- April 19 – Frank & Nancy Salo in honor of their wedding anniversary, and Sharon Williams in memory of Joan Andrews
- April 26 – Barb Allen in honor of her son, Steven's, birthday
- May 3 – Jennie Kaufman in honor of her son, Jim Kaufman's, birthday, and Kari & Julie Kosmalski in honor of their mom,Carolynn Taylor's, birthday
- May 10 – Frank & Nancy Salo in memory of their moms

We thank all of you for supporting St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund!

NOTE REGARDING OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERVICES: During this time of COVID-19, some of our church members might feel it's better in their personal situations to wait a bit longer before returning to church. And we totally understand. Because of this, Pastor Vergin will continue to post our full worship services online. Pastor is also available for home visits where private Holy Communion will be given and COVID-19 safety precautions will be used. Please call the church office if you would like to schedule a private visit with Pastor.

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! Thanks SO MUCH to all of you for continuing to regularly provide your offerings to St. Mark's either by mailing in your contributions, or participating in our Kindrid online giving program. We truly appreciate it!

JUNE'S SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – St. Mark's 2020 Calendar of Events shows that our Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 7 after the Divine Service. However, discussions are ongoing with your church leaders regarding whether or not this meeting will take place, so watch future bulletins for a determination on this.

ACOLYTES, GREETERS & OFFERING COUNTERS ON HOLD FOR MAY – As a precaution, we will not be scheduling acolytes, greeters and offering counters for the remainder of May. The offerings will be locked up after church services on Sundays and counted by office staff on Monday mornings. If any of our current Video Technicians would like to record Pastor's sermons on Sunday mornings, you are welcome to do so. We hope to resume regular scheduling of our volunteer positions beginning in June.

CONTINUING TO ACCEPT COINS FOR THE *INVISIBLE DAD LUNCH PROGRAM* AT KEITH ELEM. – Although area schools will not be resuming until September, St. Mark's will continue to receive coin donations to help support Keith Elementary's "Invisible Dad" lunch program. This helpful program, started by a dad at Keith, keeps extra money in the school's Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student's personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can't afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered only a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). A clear, glass jar is located 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 school starts in September, the contents of the jar will be counted and brought to the principal's office at Keith Elementary. Thanks in advance for helping with this project!

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 in advance for doing this!

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¼” of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn’t damaged. Thank you.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister	Rev. Aaron Vergin
Acolyte	None
Altar Guild	Debbie Sidelinker
Elder on Duty	Darryl Swainson
Greeter(s)	None
Offering Counters	None
Organist	Rob Wheeler
Trumpeter	Chris Gerard
Ushers	Tom LoCascio & John Reardon
Video Technician	None