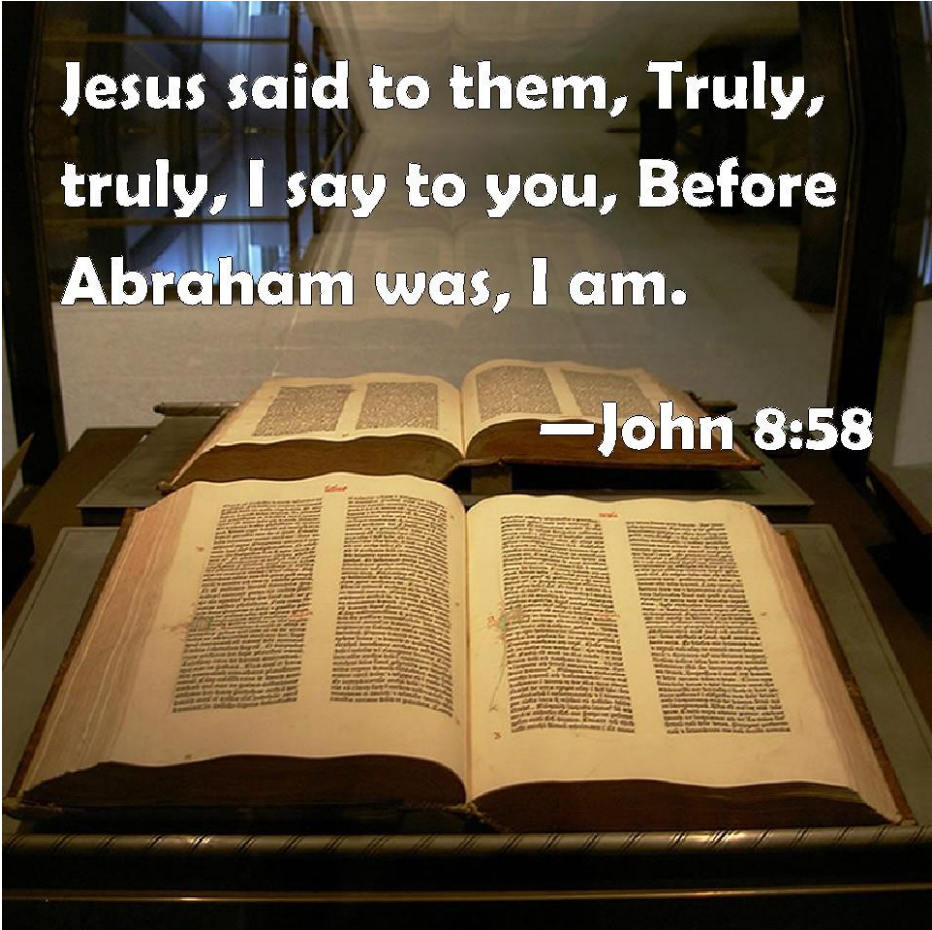


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Jesus said to them, Truly,
truly, I say to you, Before
Abraham was, I am.**

—John 8:58

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

21 March A✠D 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fifth Sunday in Lent. On this day, we consider the true magnitude of the sacrifice by which God has redeemed us. Just as Abraham dearly loved his son Isaac, so also God the Father loved His own Son, begotten by Him from all eternity. And yet God was willing to sacrifice Jesus, even giving Him into death, so that we might be saved. Today, we marvel at our Creator's amazing love and rejoice to receive that redemption.

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: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -

dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode

Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to

pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (spoken responsively)

Psalm 43:3–5; antiphon: vv. 1–2a

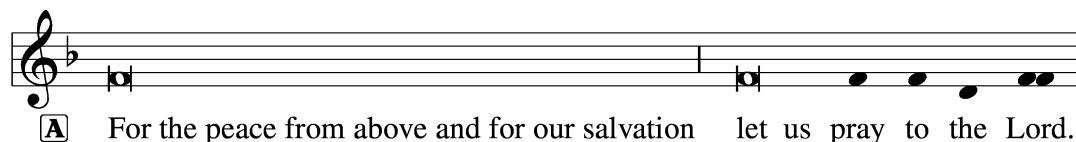
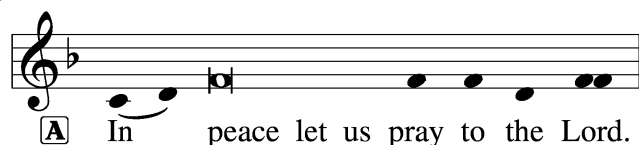
- P** Vindicate me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**
For you are the God in whom I take refuge.
- P** Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
C **Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,**
and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

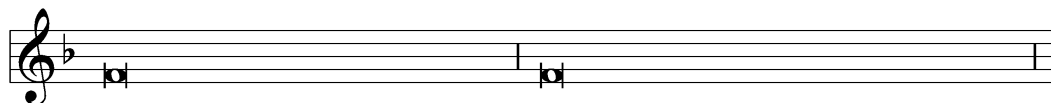
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** Vindicate me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**
For you are the God in whom I take refuge.

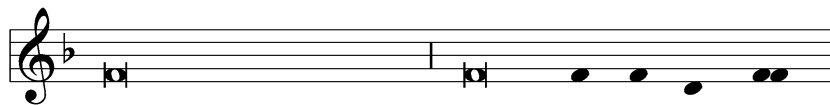
Kyrie

LSB 152





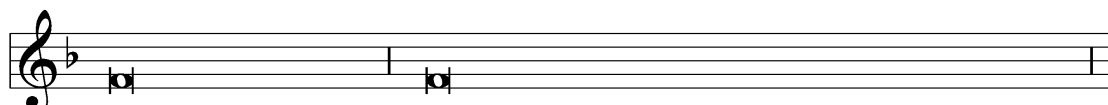
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



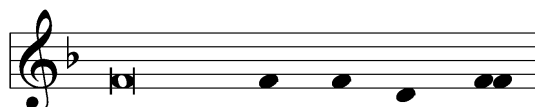
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



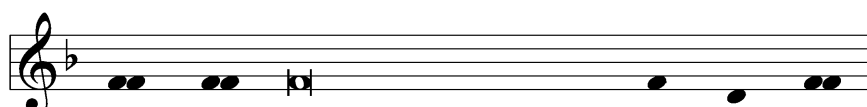
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



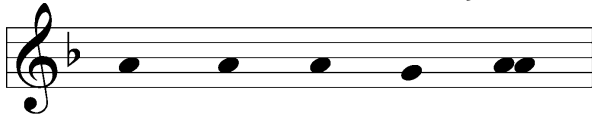
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1–14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the

ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 143:9a, 10a; 18:48a, c

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

C [You] delivered me from my enemies;
you rescued me from the man of violence.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 129:1–4

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

P “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—
let Israel now say—

C “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.

P The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”

C The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁴⁶[Jesus said,] “Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 430 My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them-selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.

What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

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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.

Sit

Reception of Members by Profession of Faith - *Candidates: Charlie & Lexi Powell*

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P To the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by His death brought us to His holy hill and by His resurrection justified us in His sight; that He would lead us by the light and truth of His Holy Word to victory in Christ in the face of all the enemies of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's holy people, cleansed and redeemed by the blood of His Son, that as priests serving under Christ, our High Priest, we may now offer living sacrifices in prayer and good works, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all fathers in the home and church, that our heavenly Father would give them wisdom and fortitude; that He would make them faithful in teaching His Word to the children entrusted to their care; and that all little ones would come to know their heavenly Father and live as true children of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew, our Synod president; David, our district president; Terry, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those in need, [*especially _____*,] that God would receive our prayers through the intercession of Jesus Christ, and grant to them healing and relief according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who commune this day, that God would prepare our hearts and give us faith in the Word of His Son, that we would thus be worthy to eat His body and drink His blood, going in full confidence to the altar of God, to our exceeding joy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, that we may not be deceived by the devil, but may know Your truth and so come to everlasting life; through 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

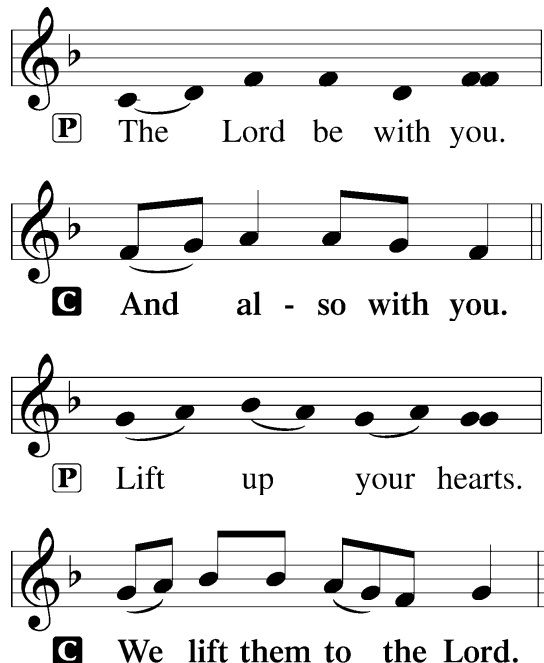


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

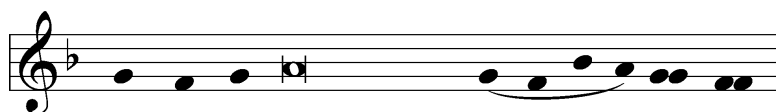
Service of the Sacrament

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.

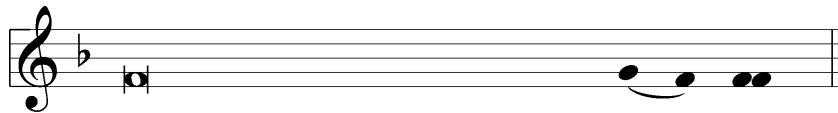
The Words of Our Lord

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 ✠ 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

LSB 163



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

G 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 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: *Voluntary 6, Opus 6* by John Stanley *Lexi Powell, Organ*

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

Distribution Hymn: 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

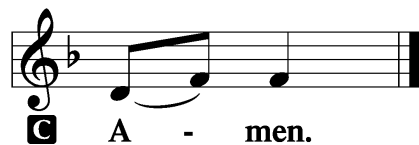


Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son 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.

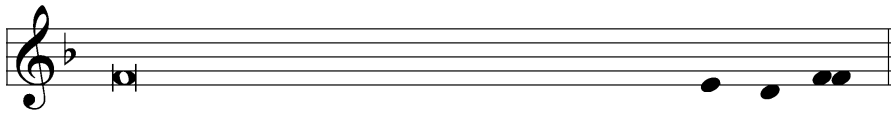
Post-Communion Collect

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.



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: 547 The Lamb



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.



Refrain
 Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/21** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Assemble/Distribute Easter invitations** 10:45 a.m.
- Mon. 3/22** **Pastor's Day Off**
Adult Handbell Practice 7:00 p.m.
- Tue. 3/23** **Pastor out of the office in the p.m.**
- Wed. 3/24** **Midweek Lenten Worship Service** 7:00 p.m.
Choir practice 7:45 p.m.
- Fri. 3/26** **Newsletter Distribution (April)**
- Sat. 3/27** **Youth Handbell Practice** 10 a.m.
Board of Family & Youth Meeting 10:30 a.m.
"Socially-Distanced" Divine Service 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. 3/28** **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for 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 worshipping together is an essential part of our Christian life!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER EASTER INVITATIONS TODAY – Later this morning, **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. After that, 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 this morning!

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 join us for our final midweek Lenten worship service (The Service of Vespers) on **Wednesday, March 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

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 TODAY.** 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!

RECEIVING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR PROPERTY UPGRADES - As you think about how you might use your recent stimulus money, please consider—as an act of thanksgiving to God and an expression of faith—donating a certain percentage to St. Mark's to help us complete the property upgrades that were a part of our "New Beginnings" plan from last year. This will help advance our ministry to our community, while promoting a good first impression to visitors. Very soon, special offering envelopes will be available for this initiative, as well as a list of intended upgrades. Please prayerfully consider donating!

THE NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY WILL OCCUR ON APRIL 10 – Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on **Saturday, April 10**. We will gather from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided, and we will be continuing our study of the book of Acts. We hope to see you there! This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

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 - 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.

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.

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."
- 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

TBD

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeters

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & TBD

Organists

Lexi Powell & Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician

Jim O'Brien