

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Sexagesima

16 February A \times D 2020

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Sexagesima Sunday. On this day, we focus especially on the Word of God, considering both its divine power as well as the eternal blessing it brings in Christ to those who believe. As we hear that Word this morning, we rejoice to know that it is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12), that it never returns to God empty (Isaiah 55:11), and that, like a seed sown into good soil, it will produce “a hundredfold” in the upright heart (Luke 8:15).

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Sharing of the Peace

Those who wish may stand and share Christ's Peace with one another by offering a handshake and the words, "Christ's peace be with you."

Hymn of Invocation: 577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 44:1–2, 7–8; antiphon: vv. 23, 25a, 26a

- P** Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- C** For our soul is bowed down to the dust.
Rise up; come to our help!
- P** O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:
- C** you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free.
- P** But you have saved us from our foes
and have put to shame those who hate us.
- C** In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name forever.

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.

(Continued next page)

- P** Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- C** For our soul is bowed down to the dust.
Rise up; come to our help!

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

During Advent and Lent (including the “Gesima” Sundays), the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

- P** Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Isaiah 55:10–13

- ¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 83:18, 13

P [Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.

C **O my God, make them like whirling dust,
like chaff before the wind.**

Epistle

Hebrews 4:9–13

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Tract

Psalm 60:1–2, 5

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

P O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;
you have been angry; oh, restore us.

C **You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;
repair its breaches, for it totters.**

P That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

Holy Gospel

Luke 8:4–15

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

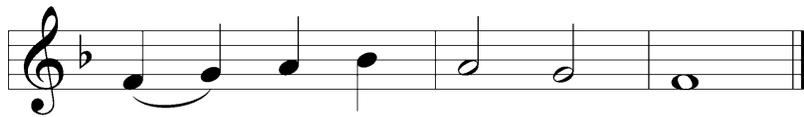


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace



1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
△ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -



vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,



To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing
The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,



health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,
earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!



And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -



mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

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Sermon

Offering

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

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Stand
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 Church, that all the baptized would continue to hear the Word of God, hold it fast in honest and good hearts, and bear fruit with patience, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Office of the Holy Ministry, that the seed of God's Word would be sown and find good soil in many through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our congregation that the Lord would fill us with an abundance of faith and with all Christian love, and that He would inspire us all to joyfully sow the seed of His Word in our daily lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our Christian brothers and sisters around the world facing persecution and martyrdom, that they may, by God's grace and the power of His Holy Spirit, confess the saving name of Jesus in the face of their persecutors, remembering that He will likewise confess them before His Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the institution of holy marriage and the blessings of family, that the Lord would increase in us thanksgiving for these divine gifts, and that they would also be cherished and honored in our society, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the nations of the world and their leaders, that all who receive the sword as Your servants may bear it according to Your command, and that war, hate and bloodshed may be overcome by peace, justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all those enduring a time of sickness or suffering in this vale of tears, [*especially* _____,] that they would know the peace of Christ that the world cannot give, and that the Lord would grant them healing according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, that reverence and awe would attend us as we enter into the dwelling place of our Lord and Savior, especially as we approach His holy altar to receive the very body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all the faithful, in whom the seed of God's Word had been planted and cultivated until they departed this vale of tears in faith, let us give thanks to the Lord. Asking Him to bring us to share with them in the eternal joys of God's heavenly feast, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

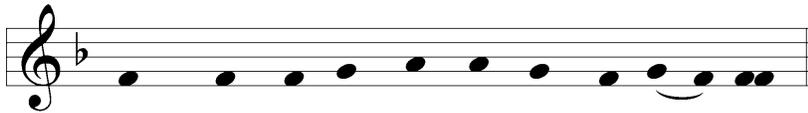
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

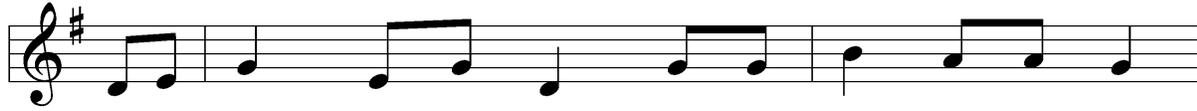
Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 728 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



1 Pre-serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
2 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
3 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
4 Pre-serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,
5 Pre-serve in wave and tem - pest Your storm-tossed lit - tle flock;



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
Con - vince, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.
As - sailed by wind and weath - er, May it en - dure each shock.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,
Stand at the helm, our pi - lot, And set the course a - right;



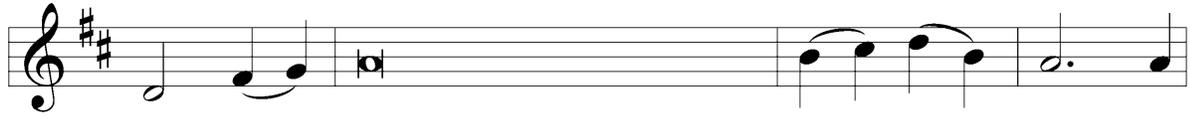
Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.
Then we will reach the har - bor In Your e - ter - nal light.

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Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



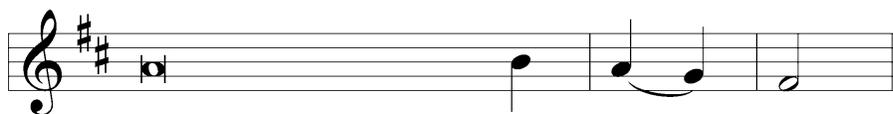
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



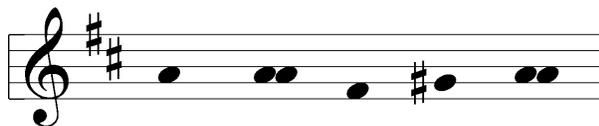
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



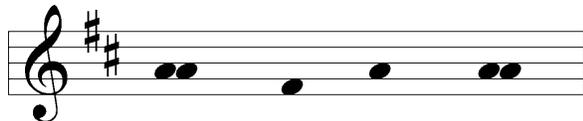
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



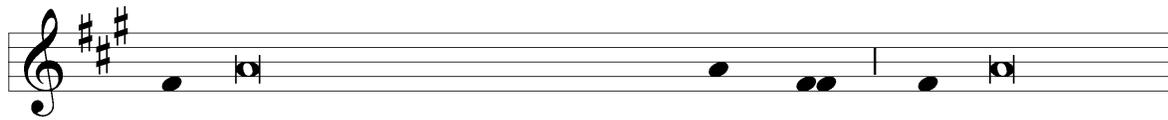
A Bless we the Lord.



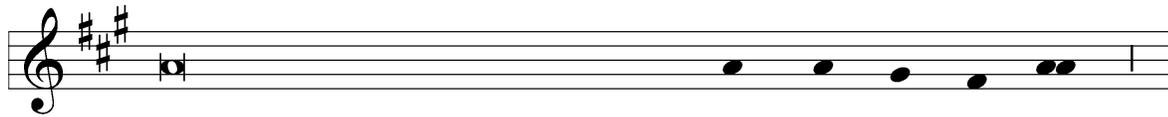
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

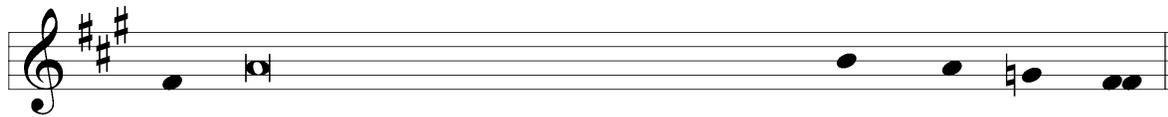
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 2/16 Sexagesima**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Sunday School for Children** 10:45 a.m., Library
- Mon. 2/17 Presidents' Day
Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 2/18 Pastor out of office in p.m.
Church Council Meeting** 7:30 p.m., Library
- Thu. 2/20 Quilting Bee** 10 a.m.
- Fri. 2/21 Newsletter Distribution**
- Sat. 2/22 "Every One His Witness" Workshop** 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun. 2/23 Quinquagesima**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Sunday School for Children** 10:45 a.m., Library

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning were placed to the glory of God by the Kaufman family in honor of Karen Kaufman's birthday on February 20. We thank the Kaufmans for this floral tribute.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS – All are welcome to join Pastor Vergin after worship in the basement Fellowship Hall for Adult Bible Study starting at 10:45 a.m. Throughout February, 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 – All kids age 4-10 are welcome to attend our Sunday School class today starting 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! We'd love to have them there!

QUILTING GROUP STILL SEEKING DONATIONS OF SHEETS/BLANKETS – St. Mark's quilting group meets every other Thursday in the basement fellowship hall starting at 10 a.m. Their next meeting will take place this Thursday, February 20. They continue to need gently-used sheets and blankets to be used in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you'd like to donate sheets and/or blankets, please leave them in the Quilt Donations Box in the lobby.

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS WORKSHOP – The *Every One His Witness* Workshop will take place on **Saturday, February 22** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. This program was developed by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its purpose is to train us—as both pastors and laypeople—to share the Gospel with others in our daily vocations. We already held this program at St. Mark's once in 2019, and those who attended will surely tell you just how valuable and helpful it was! So if you haven't gone through it before, please consider signing up to attend! The program will take the form of an all-day workshop led by Pastor Vergin and lunch will be provided to all participants. A sign-up sheet is now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary, if you're interested in participating.

ASH WEDNESDAY EVENTS - Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a 40-day period of repentance in which we prepare our hearts and minds to remember Jesus' suffering and death and then to celebrate with joy His resurrection. Ash Wednesday inaugurates this season with a special focus on our sin and its consequences, as well as a joyous proclamation of Jesus' salvation. This year, Ash Wednesday will be on **February 26**. On this day, at 7 p.m., we will hold our annual Ash Wednesday Divine Service at St. Mark's. This service will include Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. Additionally, before our service, from 5:30 - 6:30, we will hold our traditional Soup and Salad Supper. This supper is open to all at no cost. Come and enjoy some delicious food, as well as fellowship with your family of faith! We look forward to seeing you there!

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 MIDWEEK SERVICES COMMENCING IN MARCH - Once we enter into the season of Lent, we will begin holding our traditional Lenten midweek services. These services will be held on Wednesdays during Lent (**March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1**) and will begin at 7 p.m. Here, we will be following a series from Concordia Publishing House titled Eyes on Jesus. Please join us! We look forward to worshipping the Lord with you!

UPCOMING LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE - As you may know, we are currently projecting a financial shortfall of around \$20,000 for St. Mark's for this year. Therefore, the congregational leaders have put together a plan to help ensure, with God's blessing, that we can get back to a sustainable financial situation, in order that the Gospel might continue to be preached here for years to come. As part of this plan, we will be holding a Stewardship Pledge Drive during the season of Lent. Here, congregational members and families are asked to prayerfully consider their personal resources and to make a pledge to increase their regular offerings according to their ability. Pledge forms have recently been mailed out to member households. Completed forms should be returned during the season of Lent (**February 26-March 29**). A box will be provided on the back table of the sanctuary for completed forms, along with envelopes to seal the forms. 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?

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.

CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY AT KEITH ELEMENTARY – We are in the initial stages of developing a working relationship with the staff and students at Keith Elementary (located around the corner from St. Mark's). Upon first contact with their principle, she let us know that they are in desperate need of 2 crossing guards to work Monday through Friday from 8:30-9 a.m. and from 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. The rate of pay is \$12 per hour. One guard will work at the corner of Keith Road & Commerce Road, and other guard at Keith Road and Willow Road. To get additional information, contact Keith at (248) 956-3700. To apply online, visit: https://ats4.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app_login?COMPANY_ID=JA000529.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Dorothy Vermeersch

Elder on Duty

Jim O'Brien

Greeter(s)

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Offering Counters

Cindy Parks & Joanne Wisti

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

John Reardon & John Sidelinker

Video Technician

Debbie Sidelinker