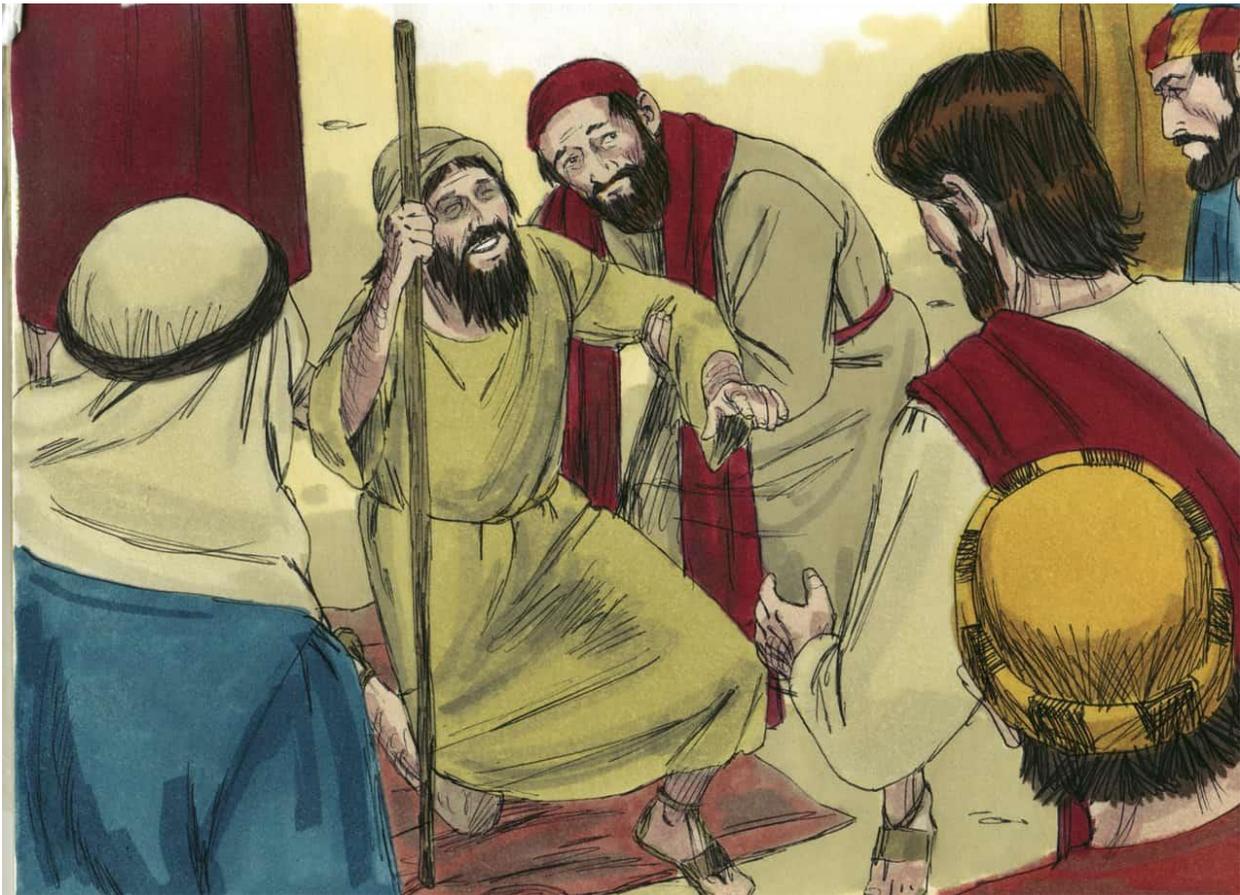


# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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## Quinquagesima

14 February A $\times$ D 2021

*Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Quinquagesima Sunday. On this day, as we continue our preparations for Lent, we consider the depth of God's love for us, and how that love was fulfilled for us in giving His only Son into death for our salvation. As sinners, our love always falls short; in the end, we are self-centered and cold-hearted. However, the love of God is perfect, seeking our salvation and life, no matter our sins. Today, we make this love our refuge.

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** 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

## Hymn of Invocation: 545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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## Service of the Word

### Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 31:1, 5, 9, 16; antiphon: vv. 2b-3*

- P** Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me!
- C** **For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**
- P** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me!
- C** **Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**
- P** Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also.
- C** **Make your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love!**

**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** Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me!
- C** **For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.**

### Kyrie

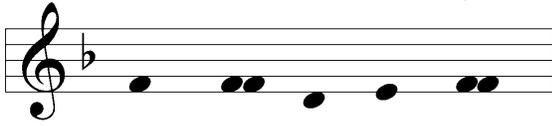
*LSB 186*



**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 Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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 35:3-7*

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 77:14–15*

- P** You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.
- C** **You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 13:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

## Tract (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 100:1–3*

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

- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- C** **Know that the LORD, he is God!**  
**It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

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



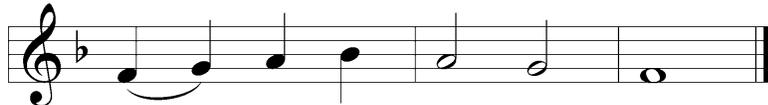
**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>Taking the twelve, [Jesus] said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

<sup>32</sup>For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. <sup>33</sup>And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” <sup>34</sup>But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

<sup>35</sup>As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup>And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. <sup>37</sup>They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” <sup>38</sup>And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup>And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>40</sup>And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>“What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” <sup>42</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.” <sup>43</sup>And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

**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

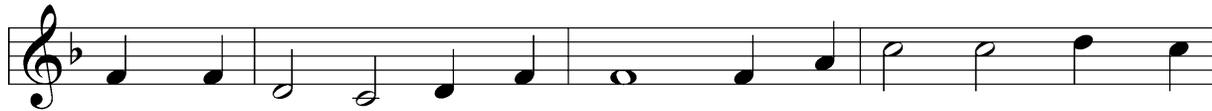
## Hymn of the Day: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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## Sermon

***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  
Offertory

LSB 192

**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** O Lord, our God, You make the blind to see and the deaf to hear. As we now prepare to enter the season of Lent, open our eyes and our ears anew, to see and to hear the love and salvation of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Preserve Your Church and her ministers. Give to all pastors the courage to embrace gladly the crosses of their office, that following their example all Christians may also bear the reproach of the world, the attacks of Satan and the temptations of the flesh in the confidence of Christ's redemption. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Preserve the families of our world and all godly Christian homes. Give parents diligence in their duties to teach the faith by word and by example. Uphold all children in the promise You make to them in Baptism. Let the patience, kindness and endurance of Christian love prevail forever among us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Preserve, O Lord, the state. To all whom You have given authority, bestow the wisdom needed to serve well. Turn us from every evil in judgment, law or action, and renew in us and our fellow citizens discernment and love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

**P** Preserve us and all who call to You in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Be their help and their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Preserve Your Holy Communion and Your Son's blessed Supper among us. Give contrition and faith to those who gather at this altar, unite them in the confession of Your truth, and so bring them worthily to eat and to drink Christ's body and blood for their forgiveness and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, what You foretold through the holy prophets has been fulfilled and accomplished in the suffering, death and resurrection of Your Son. You have set forth His suffering, death and resurrection as the firm foundation and content for our faith. Have mercy on us, and open our eyes to be fixed on the Son of David at all times. Give us courage to follow Him through all adversity and every assault of the devil to view His Passion with repentant hearts and with delight, for by it You have redeemed us from all sin and evil. Comfort us with the certainty of Christ's resurrection, by which we, too, have the confidence of eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**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

*LSB 195*



**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 (*spoken together*)

LSB 196

**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

LSB 197

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

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  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 197



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



**C** A - men.

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 practice of Holy Communion.*

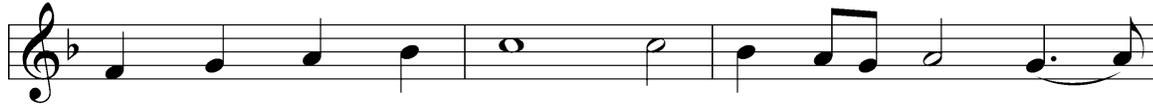
#### ***Directions for Holy Communion:***

- *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*

# Distribution Hymn: 841 O Son of God, in Galilee



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You  
2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of  
3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You  
4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of  
5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the  
Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on  
can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O  
stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring  
loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.  
You their care; Your grace to them make known.  
Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.  
light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.  
un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

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## Distribution Hymn: 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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Tune: Public domain

Stand  
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

**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 - tiles 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 with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

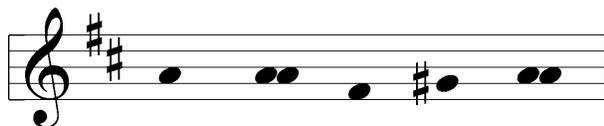
**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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

*LSB 202*



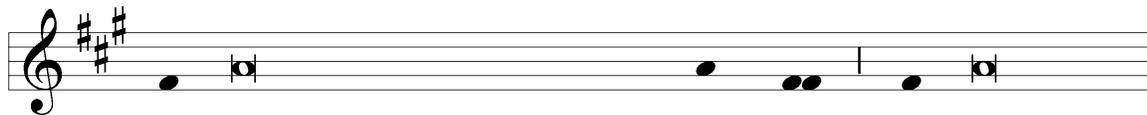
**A** Bless we the Lord.



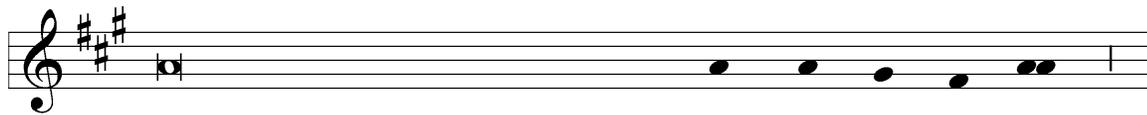
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

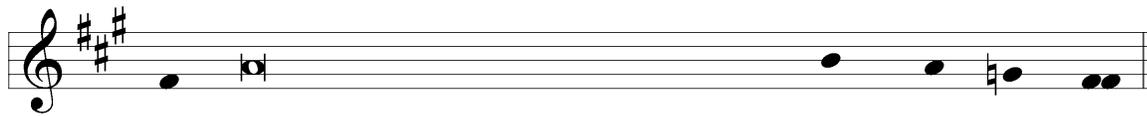
LSB 202



**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.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.  
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.  
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 2/14**    **Quinquagesima**  
**Valentine's Day**
- **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Mon. 2/15**    **Presidents' Day**
- Tue. 2/16**    **Church Council Meeting** 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 2/17**    **Ash Wednesday**
- **Soup/Salad Supper** 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
  - **Divine Service** 7:00 p.m.
- Fri. 2/19**    **Deadline to submit articles for March's newsletter**
- Sun. 2/21**    **First Sunday in Lent**  
**Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1. Hand sanitizer will be distributed at the entryway, as well as before and after 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!

**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 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.

JOIN US FOR THE ASH WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICE THIS WEEK! We hope you will join us for worship this **Wednesday, February 17** at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Divine Service as we enter into the season of Lent. Lent is a special 40-day penitential season during which we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes for those who wish to receive them. Prior to the service (from 5:30-6:30 p.m.) will be our free Soup & Salad Supper sponsored by the Board of Parish Fellowship. (COVID-19 precautions will be observed.) We hope you will join us for a hot meal and the Word of God on February 17!

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES – The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the joyous resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. Throughout the season of Lent, Pastor will be preaching and teaching using a series from Concordia Publishing House titled “Return to the Lord.” The series is described as follows: *“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personified and accomplishes all that God declares. Follow different events during the Pasion, specifically focusing on the people that followed Christ, to see how God calls His people to return to Him this Lenten season. Between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, we will be offering 5 midweek worship services on Wednesdays--February 24 & March 3, 10, 17 & 24, starting at 7 p.m. that will also utilize the “Return to the Lord” series. Please make plans now to join us for these Wednesday evening services!*

MARCH'S MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Attention Men of St. Mark's! Our next Men's Bible Study will be held on **Saturday, March 6**. 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!

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS AND DEVOTIONS 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! Then you can drop them 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. The devotions start with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Please feel free to take one home for personal devotions throughout the season of Lent.

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.**

TOY DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM *FIVE BELOW* STORE – Have you had a chance to shop in St. Mark’s basement for toys and electronics’ holders for your kids or grandkids yet? If not, **please check out the toy supplies on the tables downstairs** and grab some for the kiddos! The Five Below store in Warren purged all of their unsold stock and donated those items to St. Mark’s to disburse to children. Feel free to “shop” with your kids or grandkids if you’d like, or if you know of a needy family with children, you may select some toys for them and deliver them yourself. In a week or two, whatever items are left over will be given to an area charity. So don’t wait! Shop downstairs now! There are grocery bags on one of the tables for you to use, if needed. We are thankful to the Five Below store in Warren for thinking of St. Mark’s!

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

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave 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 (*either service*)

TBD

Altar Guild

Dorothy Vermeersch

Elder on Duty (*both services*)

John Sidelinker

Greeters (*either service*)

Sue Ingram & Judy Schassberger

Offering Counters (*after late service*)

Joanne Wisti

Organist (*both services*)

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter (*either service*)

Chris Gerard

Usher (*both services*)

Trent Johnson

Video Technician (*either service*)

Debbie Sidelinker