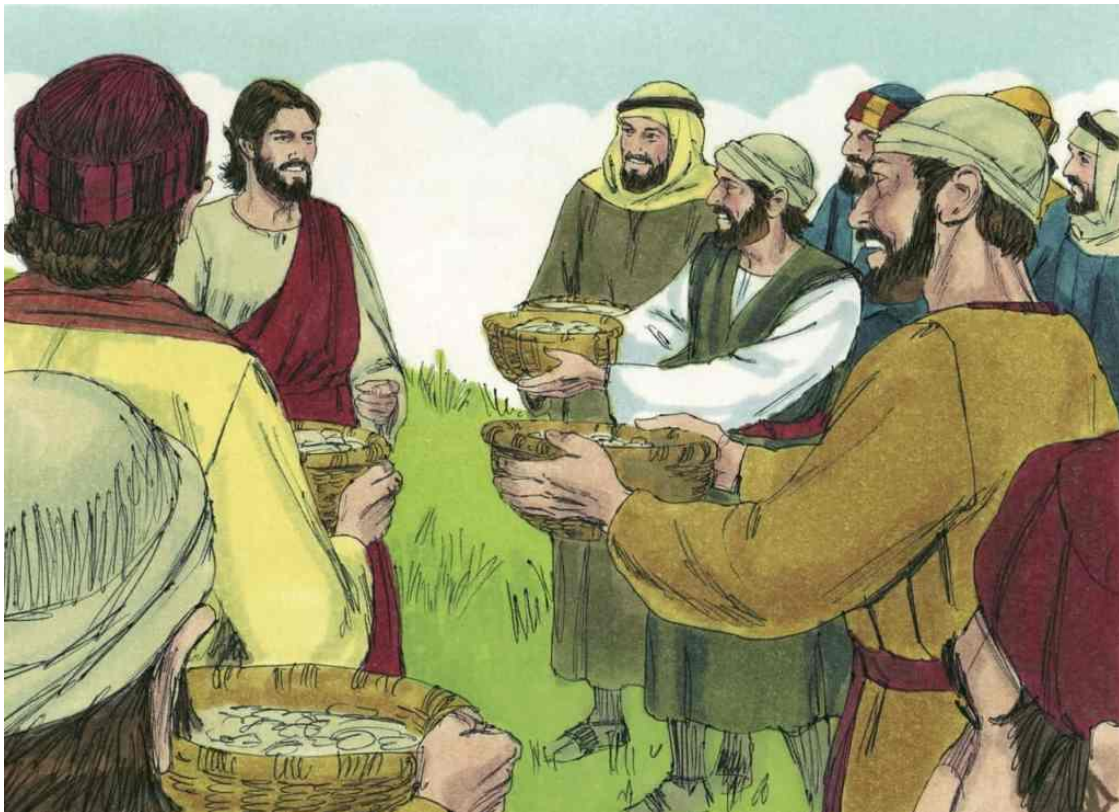


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

(*Laetare*)

22 March A✠D 2020

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

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fourth Sunday in Lent. On this day, we remember how our Lord Jesus comes to us to feed us with true bread, that we might be fully satisfied and strengthened in Him. He died and rose again for us, and now today He comes to us to feed us with His Word and with His body and blood at His table, filling us and strengthening us in a way that nothing else can. We rejoice to receive all our Lord has to give.

If you are a VISITOR here, offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus' body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled "On the Sacrament of Holy Communion," printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,
I humbly pray that You would open my heart
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess with us the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may simply remain in your pew.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

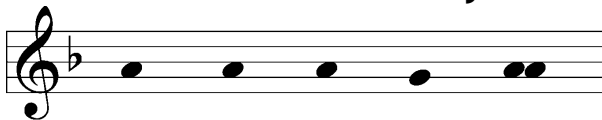
Psalm 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a

- P** Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
C that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious abundance.
- P** I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
C Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- P** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May they be secure who love you!
C For my brothers and companions’ sake
I will say, “Peace be within you!”

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

- P** Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
C that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious abundance.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 49:8–13

⁸Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,
⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

¹²Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.”

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
for the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 122:1, 7

P I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

C Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!

Second Reading

Acts 2:41–47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 125:1–2, 5b

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

P Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon

Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit
Sermonette

Stand
Apostles' Creed

(During the season of Lent, the Apostles' Creed is confessed.)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Almighty and eternal God, worthy to be held in reverence by all people everywhere, we give You humble and sincere thanks for the innumerable blessings that You have bestowed on us without any merit or worthiness on our part. We praise You especially for preserving for us Your saving Word and the Holy Sacraments. Grant and preserve to Your Holy Church throughout the world purity of doctrine, and provide faithful pastors to preach Your Word with power. Help all who hear the Word rightly to understand and truly to believe it. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, in mercy, bring to repentance the enemies of Your Church, and grant them amendment of life. Protect and defend Your Church in all tribulation and danger, and sustain with Your Spirit our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who experience persecution. Strengthen us and all fellow Christians to set our hope fully on the grace revealed in Christ, and help us to fight the good fight of faith, that in the end we may receive the salvation of our souls. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Loving God, bestow Your grace on all nations of the earth. Bless especially our country, its inhabitants and all who are in authority. We pray that you would strengthen us in the face of the current pandemic, uphold our leaders as they battle it, comfort all who are anxious, heal the sick, grant peace to those who mourn, provide for our needs, and grant perseverance to all medical personnel and emergency workers. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Compassionate Lord, graciously defend us from all calamity by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine, and from every other evil. Protect and prosper all who labor in their rightful callings, and let all useful arts flourish among us. Be the God and Father of the poor and homeless, the helper of the hungry and needy, the comforter of the distressed and those who sorrow. Look with mercy especially upon those who have requested our prayers, (including _____.) Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Grant Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, to those who come to the Lord's table this day, that they may receive the heavenly manna of Christ's very body and blood in sincere repentance and firm faith, and to their abundant blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

P Father, as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes when no one can work. And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power, and receive us into Your heavenly kingdom; 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 weekly offering as you depart.

Service of the Sacrament

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

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

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Stand

Distribution

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

For your health at Holy Communion:

- *Please remain in your pew to receive Holy Communion*
- *Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth*
- *Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended*
- *When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups*

Post-Communion Collect

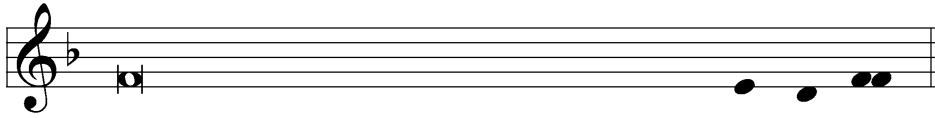
P Let us pray.

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.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/22** **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
▪ **Divine Service 9:30 a.m.**
- Mon. 3/23** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 3/24** **Pastor out of office in p.m.**
- Wed. 3/25** **Confirmation Class A 4:00 p.m.**
Midweek Vespers Worship Service 7 p.m.
- Fri. 3/27** **Confirmation Class B 4 p.m., Library**
Distribute April's newsletter
- Sun. 3/29** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
▪ **Divine Service 9:30 a.m.**

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the Covid-19 virus, and our concern for everyone's health, the following programs/events have been cancelled until further notice:

- Sunday Adult Bible Class
- Sunday School for Children
- The Neighborhood Prayer Walk
- All Easter music rehearsals
- The Men's Bible Study on 4/4
- The Community Easter Egg Hunt & Fun event on 4/11
- Easter Breakfast on 4/12
- Easter morning Egg Hunt on 4/12

Thanks for your understanding during this time of drastic health measures in our country and around the world.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES ON WEDNESDAYS – Our traditional Lenten midweek services will continue on **Wednesday evenings during Lent at 7 p.m.** *However, we ask that those who attend these services spread out amongst the pews for health reasons.* We will be using the Service of Vespers while following a series from Concordia Publishing House titled *Eyes on Jesus*. Please join us! We look forward to worshipping the Lord with you!

REMINDER: Don't forget to periodically check out the **BUDGET THERMOMETER** located on the bulletin board outside of the church office to see how we're doing financially for 2020!

OUR LENTEN STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE – Our Lenten Stewardship Pledge Drive will continue throughout the Season of Lent, culminating on Sunday, March 29. Pledge forms were mailed out to member households in late February. Completed forms should be returned to the box on the table at the back of the sanctuary during the season of Lent (no later than March 29). Near the box, you will find envelopes to hold your completed form (please seal your envelope) and extra copies of the Pledge Form. All forms will remain confidential and will not be opened or viewed. At some point during the Divine Service on **Sunday, March 29**, these pledges will be presented to the Lord with prayer and thanksgiving.

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

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR SPRING EASTER PLANTS - St. Mark's is, once again, accepting orders for spring plants that will be placed in/around the altar area for Easter. After Easter, those who purchased plants may take theirs home where they can then be planted in your garden. See today's pink bulletin insert for more information and/or to order a plant or two. All order forms with payment must be turned in to the church office no later than **March 29** (checks should be made payable to: St. Mark's Lutheran Church). Orders may be placed in honor, or in memory, of a loved one, and the names of these beloved folks will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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

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

Please join us for these festive services! (We will keep you posted if/when our worship procedures change for health reasons.)

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

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



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

None

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Jim O'Brien

Greeter(s)

None

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

None

Ushers

Scott Miller & Matt Maier

Video Technician

Kim Olsen