

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The Last Sunday of the Church Year

24 November AÐD 2019

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Last Sunday of the Church Year. On this day, we consider the Bible's teaching about Christ's Second Coming, remembering that we are living now in the end times and rejoicing to know that our redemption is truly drawing near. As Scripture teaches, Christ will soon return to judge the living and the dead, and when He does He will bring the unbelieving world into judgment, but will gather us into God's kingdom forever.

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

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: 663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
 5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
 you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
 fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
 ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
 creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
 nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10

- P** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- C** **They shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**
- P** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
- C** **Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing
before you.**
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!
- P** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
- C** **Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**

**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** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- C** **They shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

¹⁷“Behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.
²⁴Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent’s food.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,”
says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 45:14–15

- P** In many-colored robes [the king's daughter] is led to the king,
with her virgin companions following behind her.
- C** With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

Epistle

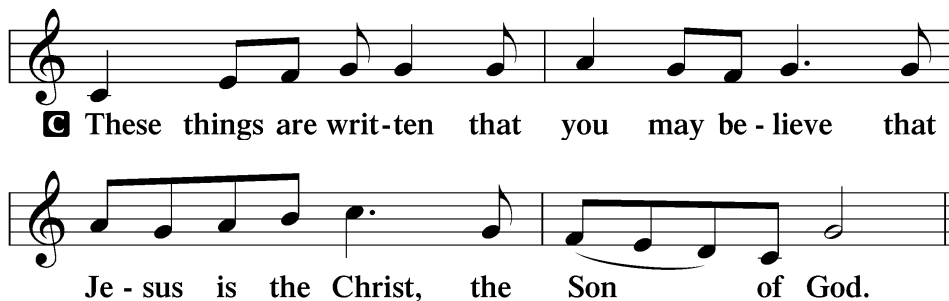
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C 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: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch-men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, And all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



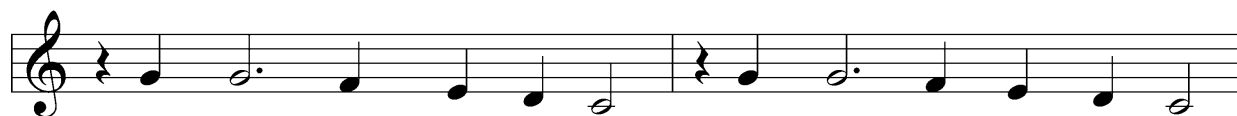
heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym-bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your-selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

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

Almighty and eternal God, worthy to be held in reverence by all, we give You humble thanks for the many 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 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 to understand it rightly truly to believe it sincerely. Send laborers into Your harvest, and open the door of faith to those who do not know You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Heavenly Father, in mercy bring to repentance the enemies of Your Church. Protect and defend us 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. Let Your glory dwell in our land, that mercy and truth, righteousness and peace may abound in all places. Bless also those who serve in our armed forces, that they may serve with integrity and honor. 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. Comfort the lonely and forsaken, help the sick and needy, and grant peace to the distressed and those who sorrow. Look with mercy especially upon those who have requested our prayers, [*including* _____.] Grant them to cling to Jesus in every trouble as their sure and certain hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Grant Your Holy Spirit to those who come to the Lord's table this day, that they may receive the very body and blood of Jesus 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.

Sit

Offering

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

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

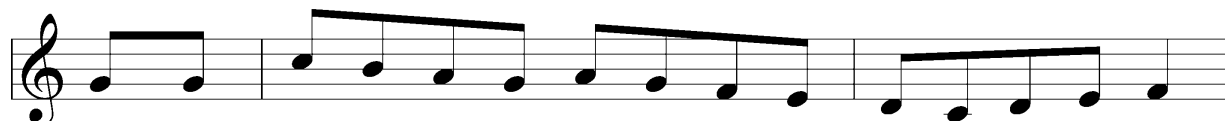
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



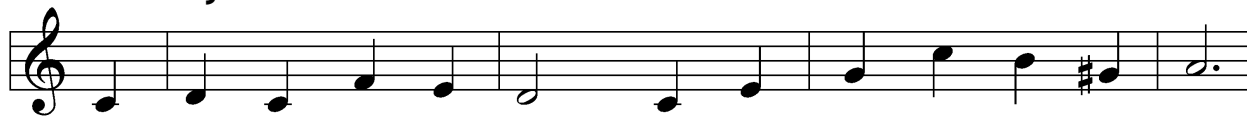
For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 672 Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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 Amen.

Closing Hymn: 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
 3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
 What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
 Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
 dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
 trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
 might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
 known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
 judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
 And for my sin was smitten;
 Within the Book of Life I know
 My name has now been written.
 I will not doubt, for I am free,
 And Satan cannot threaten me;
 There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
 And through His blood and
 merit
 Read from His book that we are
 free
 With all who life inherit.

Then we shall see Him face to
 face,
 With all His saints in that blest
 place
 Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
 But hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way
 In fear and tribulation.
 O hear and grant our fervent plea:
 Come, mighty judge, and set us
 free
 From death and ev'ry evil.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 11/24 The Last Sunday in the Church Year**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Youth Bell Practice** 10:45 a.m., Choir Loft
 - **Sunday School** 11:15 a.m., Library
- Mon. 11/25 Pastor's Day Off**
Adult Handbell Practice 7:30 p.m., Choir Loft
- Tue. 11/26 Pastor out of office in p.m.**
Merger Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m., @ St. Mark's
- Wed. 11/27 Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service** 7 p.m.
- Thu. 11/28 Thanksgiving Day**
Church Office closed
- Fri. 11/29 Church Office closed**
- Sun. 12/1 The First Sunday in Advent**
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall (basement)
 - **Youth Bell Practice** 10:45 a.m., Choir Loft
 - **Sunday School** 11:15 a.m., Library

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS MORNING were placed to the glory of God by the Allen family in honor of Kim Allen's birthday on November 25. We thank the Allens for this floral tribute!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – All kids age 4 through those in 5th Grade are welcome and encouraged to attend our weekly Sunday School class that **starts at 11:15 a.m.** in the Library. **(Please note the time change for the next 5 weeks due to youth handbell practices).** Here, children will join with others 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!

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS – All adults are welcome to join Pastor **each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 a.m.** as he continues teaching 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. 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!

CONSIDER COMPLETING A "CONGREGATIONAL INPUT FORM" - As we move forward in exploring a merger with Peace Lutheran Church in Waterford for the sake of the Gospel, the Merger Exploration Committee would like your input. Therefore, the Committee has put together a "Congregational Input Form" for you to fill out. These forms will help guide the Committee as it discusses what such a merger might look like. Forms are available on the back table in the sanctuary and must be returned **no later than TODAY, November 24**. Completed forms should be placed in the box located on that same table. Anonymous forms will not be accepted. Input is reserved for Voting Members in good standing. Please consider helping the committee in this way, as it explores this exciting opportunity in Christ! We truly value your input! God bless!
Pastor Aaron Vergin

YOUTH HANDBELL PRACTICES will continue each Sunday from now through December 22 from 10:45 – 11:15 a.m. (Note that Sunday School on these dates will take place **AFTER** handbell practice.) The kids are welcome to play bells during our Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m., and/or during our Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m. They will be using brand new, colored, metal bells, so they're sure to have fun as they serve the Lord in song.

ADULT HANDBELL PRACTICES will continue on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. from tomorrow night **through December 23**. The bell choir will then be ringing during our Christmas Eve Service on **December 24** at 6 p.m. We look forward to hearing them play!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE - On **Wednesday, November 27** at 7 p.m. we will be holding our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship service. On this day, we will gather in the presence of God to reflect upon His many blessings and give sincere thanks to Him for them all. We will be singing several of your favorite hymns of praise, hearing God's Word of blessing, and lifting up our hearts to our Lord in prayer. Please join us! This is a great way to begin your Thanksgiving holiday! Also, the people of Peace Lutheran Church will be invited to this service, so it will be a good opportunity to get to know them, as well!

PASTOR'S WINKEL DECEMBER 10 – St. Mark's will be hosting the monthly Pastor's Winkel for the Kensington Circuit here on **Tuesday, December 10** from 9 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. Help will be needed with serving a light breakfast and also lunch to the attending pastors on that day. If you'd like to help, please let Sharon Williams know.

ALL LADIES INVITED TO *ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT* – All women and girls are invited to attend Peace Lutheran Church's Advent by Candlelight event on **Thursday, December 5**. Please plan to join them for an evening of visiting, beautiful music and delicious desserts as they prepare their hearts for Advent and Christmas. Appetizers will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. Peace Lutheran is located at 7390 Elizabeth Lake Road (just east of Williams lake Road) in Waterford. If you'd like to attend, you must **R.S.V.P. no later than December 1** by emailing the church at peacewaterford@gmail.com, or calling them at (248) 681-9360. Peace's Parish Ladies' Guild will be collecting children's waterproof gloves and socks for their sponsored school, Houghton Elementary, at the event, so if you'd like to help, please bring these donations with you.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY DECEMBER 7 – All men are welcome to attend the next Men's Bible Study on **Saturday, December 7** from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, Waterford. (Following the Study, those who wish may return to St. Mark's to help decorate our congregation for Christmas.) Pastor will continue teaching on the book of Acts. Breakfast will be provided by the men of Peace Lutheran. Please remember to bring your Bible if you'll be attending!

LET'S DECORATE ST. MARK'S FOR CHRISTMAS! Lots of help will be needed to decorate St. Mark's for Christmas on **Saturday, December 7** starting at 10:30 a.m. Window sills need to be decked out, the nativity scene set up, lights hung along the choir balcony, the Christmas tree erected, and two large wreaths need to be hung on the north wall. Bring your entire family to this fun event!

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING DATE CHANGE - St. Mark's Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting that had been scheduled for Sunday, December 1 directly following the Divine Service has been rescheduled for **Sunday, December 8** directly following the Divine Service. The meeting was moved because no one realized that December 1 is part of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and that some of our members will be out of town that weekend. We encourage all of our church members, ages 18+, to attend. Items on the Agenda will include financial reporting, traditional board reports, the approval of a 2020 budget, and elections for 2020 positions. Please make plans now to attend this important meeting.

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE *LUTHERAN WITNESS* - This is the time of year when members of St. Mark's have the opportunity to order or renew subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* (LW) magazine, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, LW provides stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The annual subscription fee is \$11.60 and runs from March 2020 through February 2021. Payment must be turned in to St. Mark's church office **no later than December 9**. Checks should be made payable to: St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

LADIES' QUILTING GROUP SEEKING SHEETS & BLANKETS – Our Missionary League is continuing to make more blankets for Lutheran World Relief, but they could use some help. If you have any gently-used sheets, or blankets, that you are no longer using, please consider donating them to this cause! Items can be left in the Quilt Donations Box in the lobby.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES – The season of Advent officially begins next Sunday, December 1, and our order of service will change to Divine Service, Setting III. This year, our MIDWEEK ADVENT services will take place on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18**, at Peace Lutheran Church on Elizabeth Lake Road (east of Williams Lake Road) in Waterford starting at 7 p.m. Each Wednesday, a dinner (\$3 per person) will precede the dinner from 6-7 p.m. **If you will be attending the dinner, please list your name(s) on the sign-up sheet located on the pedestal at the top of the basement stairs.**

SIGN UP SOON FOR THE *EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS* WORKSHOP - It is the privilege of every Christian to witness to Christ in their daily lives. But for many of us, that is an intimidating thought. Therefore, on **Saturday, December 14**, we will be holding a training program at St. Mark's called *Every One His Witness*. 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 this year, 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 plan to do so now! The program will take the form of an all-day workshop led by Pastor Vergin. We will begin at 9 a.m. and will end around 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is now located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Spots are limited, so reserve your place quickly! We hope to see you there!

ACCEPTING POINSETTIA ORDERS – We are now accepting orders for beautiful, red poinsettias that will adorn the altar area for Christmas. Each plant costs \$8.50 and you may purchase one or more in honor, or in memory, of a loved one. If you're interested, complete a pink order form found in the Sunday bulletins, place it and your payment (checks made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church) in a pink flower envelope (located in the pews), then place the pink envelope in an offering plate by **Sunday, December 15**. The names of those honored or remembered will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You will be free to take your poinsettia home with you (if you wish) on Sunday, December 29.

ST. MARK'S "WELCOME BASKET" OUTREACH PROGRAM – Our Board of Gospel Outreach has expanded their Welcome Basket program to include not only the neighborhood behind church, but also the Golf Manor Subdivision as well. Anyone who would like to help offset the cost of these baskets can place their donation in a pink envelope (found in the pew racks), write "Welcome Baskets" on the front, and place the envelope into our offering plates. An example of a filled basket is now located on the shelf at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs.

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.**

OPEN DOOR'S ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - St. Mark's Board of Human Care is working with the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford again this year to help with their Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. There are three ways that our congregation can assist in this effort:

- As a congregation, we will sponsor 1 family. A wish list, completed by the family, will be given to us. This list will then be posted and we ask that those who'd like to help sign up next to the item to be purchased. Then return it to church no later than **December 19**. Gift receipts included with your donation(s) are a good idea when sizes are involved.
- Those sponsoring a family on their own are asked to drop off their gifts to the Open Door on **December 17, 18 and 19**. St. Mark's will then pick up these items from the Open Door during those dates and bring them back to our building for storage until they are distributed to the families on December 21. If anyone would like to help with gift pick-up at Open Door, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the near future.
- Recipients of the gifts will be told to pick up their gifts at St. Mark's on Saturday, **December 21** between the hours of 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will be seeking help during these times for check-in and distribution of the gifts. Again, please look for the sign-up sheet to appear if you'd like to help.

Thanks so much for your support! Gail Hardy & Karen Kaufman - Board of Human Care

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES – One and all are welcome to attend our Christmas worship services next month! Our Christmas Eve service will take place on **Tuesday, December 24** at 6 p.m. and will include some of your favorite Christmas hymns, youth and adult handbell choirs, and the candlelight version of Silent Night at the end of the service. Our Christmas Day Divine Service will take place on **Wednesday, December 25** at 10 a.m. and will feature more of your favorite Christmas hymns, youth handbells, and some additional special music. The Sunday after Christmas Pastor Vergin will be out of town, and we will be blessed with the preaching and teaching of our wonderful brother in Christ, the Reverend Doctor Frank Pies, Emeritus pastor at Our Savior Lutheran, Hartland. We hope to see you at all of our Christmas services this year!

EYEGLASS AND POSTAGE STAMP DONATIONS – The small, plastic bins used to collect eyeglasses for M.O.S.T. Ministries, and postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translators, are located on the bookshelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. M.O.S.T. Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) provides recycled eyeglasses to people living in the developing nations around the world. Wycliffe Bible Translators provide Bibles that are written in peoples' native languages so that they can fully understand God's Word and, hopefully, come to faith in Christ. Used postage stamps should be cut out with ¼" of space around them and placed into the donation bin so they can be mailed to Wycliffe once a year and sold on auction websites. The proceeds are used to help with Bible translation projects.

2019 GREENS MARKET – The members of Peace Lutheran Church in Waterford have helped make Christmas "greens" for the 2019 Greens Market that will take place on **Saturday, December 7** from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Waterford Senior Center (3621 Pontiac Lake Road). All are invited to shop for wreaths, swags, fresh arrangements and baked goods being sold by the non-profit organization Waterford Garden Club. For more info, visit waterfordgardenclub.org.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Acolyte

Jay Anderson

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Debbie LoCascio & Nancy Salo

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Ushers

Tom Kaufman

Video Technician

Jim O'Brien