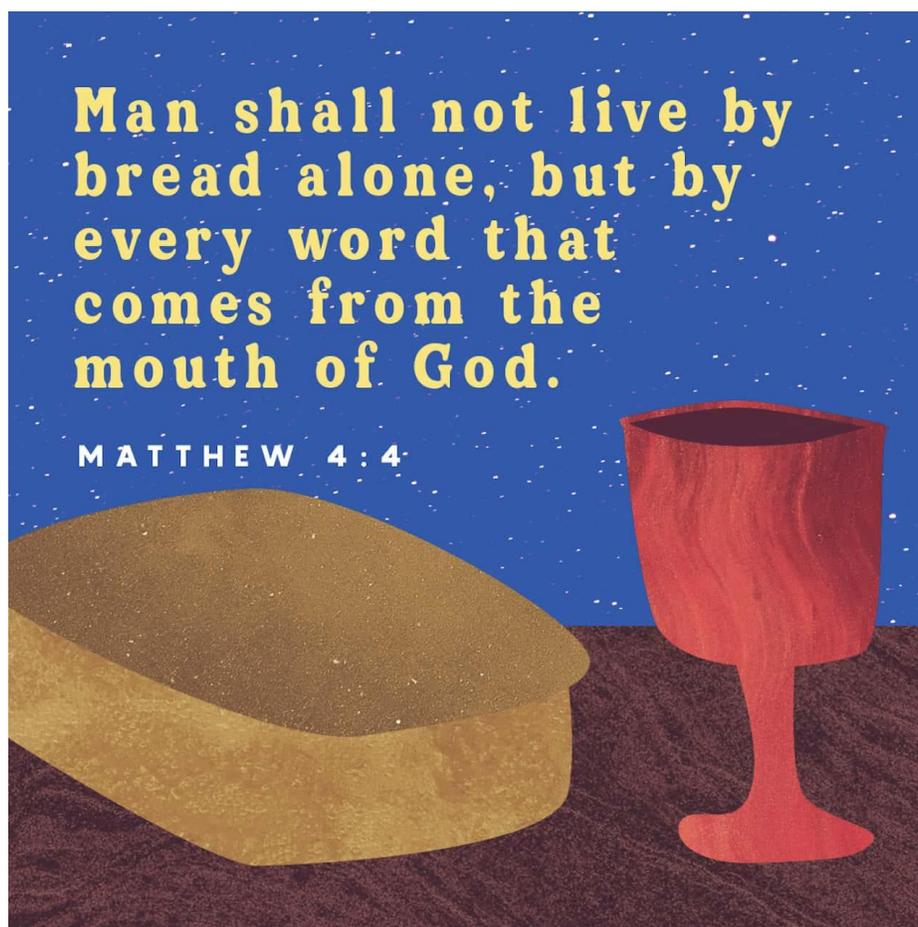


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 First Sunday in Lent

21 February A \times D 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the First Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on Jesus' mission to defeat the devil, our ancient foe, and to win for us eternal victory. Shortly after the world was made, the devil began his wicked attack on mankind, and through his temptation we were overthrown and condemned. However, at the perfect time, Jesus appeared to do for us what we could not: By His cross, He conquered the devil and set us forever free.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

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

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

Kneel/Stand

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

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

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

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

C Amen.

Hymn of Invocation: 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and
4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came To bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our
deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
sin and woe and shame, To be our life, our



curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
light, our way, Our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

- 5 As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow'rs.
This grace our ev'ry way attend
Until we reach our journey's end.

Tune and text: Public domain

Service of the Word

Stand

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–10, 13; antiphon: vv. 15a, c, 16

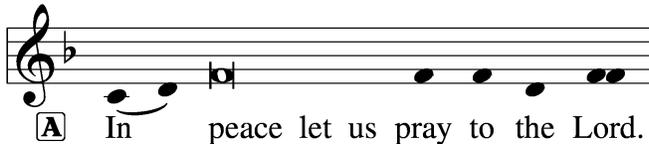
- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**
- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** **I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”**
- P** Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** **no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

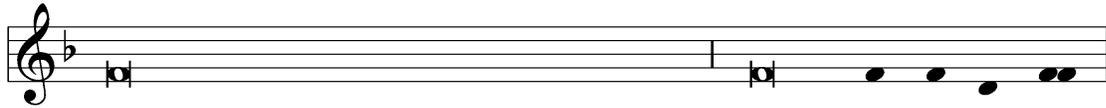
**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**

Kyrie

LSB 152





A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



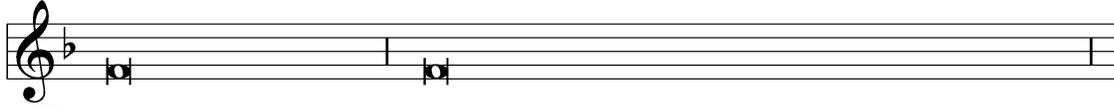
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



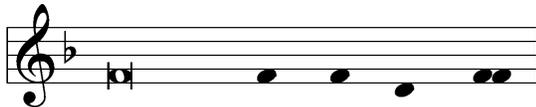
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



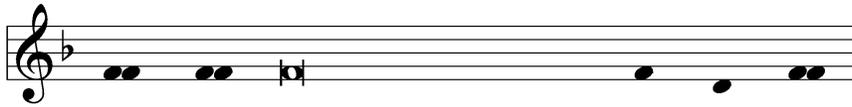
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

NOTE: During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman

whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (spoken responsively)

Psalm 91:11–12

- P** He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- C** **On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Stand

Tract (spoken responsively)

Psalm 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16

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

- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** **He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge.**
- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
He's by our side up - on the plain



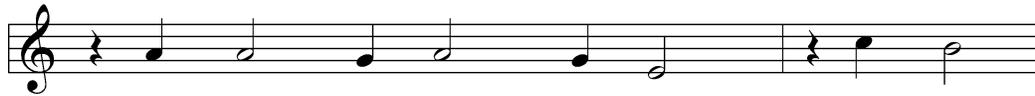
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none,
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main - eth.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed (*used during Lent*)

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

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

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

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Lord's guidance, that as God led His ancient people through the desert and brought them to the Promised Land, we may follow our Savior through the wilderness of this world and toward the glory of the world to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For new and contrite hearts, that we may lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness, while rejoicing to know that God despises nothing He has made and forgives always the sins of those who are penitent, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, her ministers and her people, that God would stretch forth the right hand of His majesty to defend us from those who rise up against us, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home, that God would preserve them from the assaults of the evil one and, as Christ overcame Satan in the desert by the Word of God, also give us the victory through Him and His Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace, that as we sojourn in the wilderness of this earth, God would by His might defend us and our nation against all enemies, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the needy, the sick and the troubled [*especially _____*], that God would care for each of them according to their needs, and also that He would send His holy angels to protect and keep us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune this day, that as God once covered the sin of our first parents with animal skin, foreshadowing Christ's perfect sacrifice by which we are cleansed and clothed, He would give us the garments of repentance and faith to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, today the adversary continually afflicts us and seeks to devour us: We implore You for the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to help us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen our hearts by Your Word, that our enemy may not prevail over us, but that we may evermore abide in Your grace and be preserved unto everlasting 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.

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 159

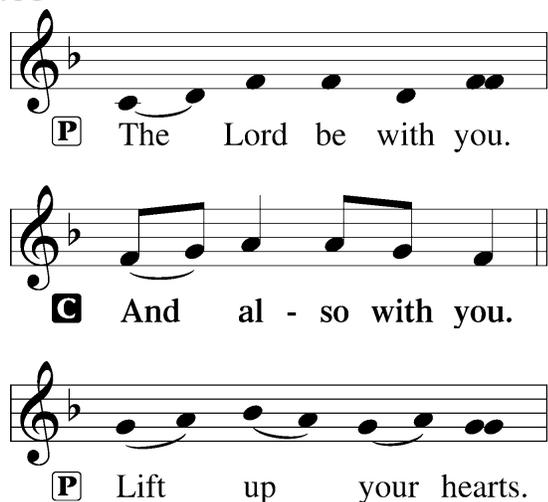


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

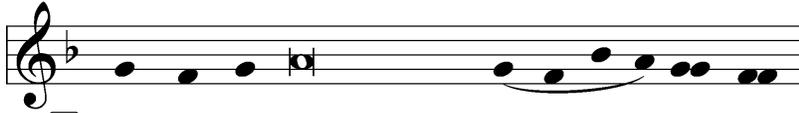
LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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

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

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

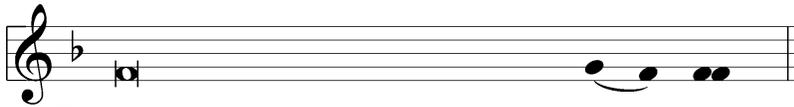
The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini

LSB 163



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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

Directions for Holy Communion:

- *Ushers will release you in small groups to approach the altar*
- *Please wear a mask as you approach the altar and as you depart (masks may be removed at the communion rail)*
- *Please space yourselves out at the communion rail (households may remain together)*
- *Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth*
- *Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended*
- *When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups*

Distribution Hymn: 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swer-ving love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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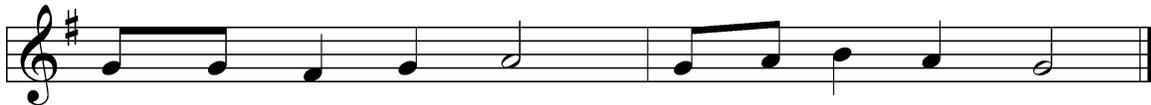
Distribution Hymn: 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On



1 Je-sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re-lief From a long-felt grief, When temp-ta-tions
4 Je-sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead-er,



way be cheer-less, We will fol-low calm and fear-less.
fears o'er-take us; Let not faith and hope for-sake us;
come al-lur-ing, Make us pa-tient and en-dur-ing.
still di-rect us, Still sup-port, con-sole, pro-TECT us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa-ther-land.
For through man-y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe-ly stand In our fa-ther-land.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

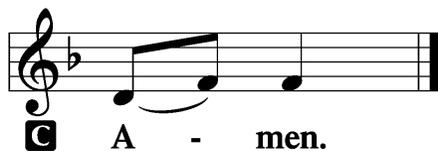


Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son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

Post-Communion Collect

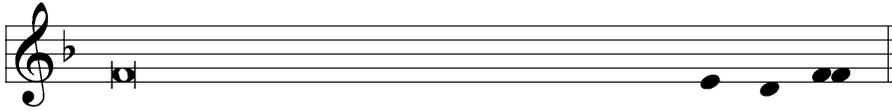
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

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.

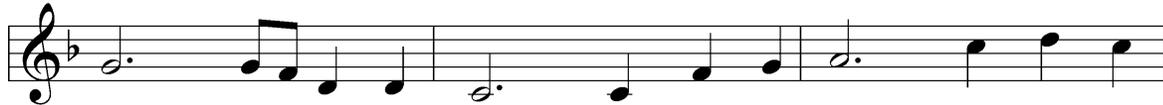


C A - men.

Closing Hymn: 561 The Tree of Life



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
played With - in the world so new - ly made.
dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 2/21** **First Sunday in Lent**
Divine Services at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Wed. 2/24** **Midweek Lenten Worship Service** 7:00 p.m.
- Fri. 2/26** **Distribution of March's newsletter**
- Sun. 2/28** **Second 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.

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES – 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. Pastor will be teaching on 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!

WORSHIP SERVICE DAY/TIME CHANGES STARTING MARCH 6 – By now, we hope you have received the letter from Pastor Vergin explaining that starting March 6, there will be changes to our worship days/times. In the letter, Pastor explains that starting **Sunday, March 7**, we will return to holding one service at 9:30 a.m. This will be followed by Adult Bible Study in the basement at 10:45 a.m. Standard COVID-19 procedures will be taken (e.g. suspending certain portions of the service, wearing masks while moving about the building, etc.), with one exception: we will be switching to sitting every other pew rather than every third pew. The other change taking place will be the addition of a socially-distanced Saturday evening worship service at 6:30 p.m. beginning **Saturday, March 6**. This will be a smaller, simpler service, around 30-40 minutes in length, intended for those who are still waiting on the vaccine or have other special circumstances, where we will be practicing strict social distancing (wearing masks during the entire service, significant spacing between congregants, no singing, etc.). This will be a temporary addition to our worship schedule. Our ultimate goal is to be able to gather together again on Sunday mornings as one.

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. Please feel free to take one home for personal devotions throughout the season of Lent.

SEEKING SINGERS, RINGERS AND MUSICIANS FOR EASTER SUNDAY – We haven't done much in the way of music in church this past year due to COVID-19. However, as coronavirus numbers have decreased greatly in 2021, we are thinking that it would be nice to have some special music for Holy Week/Easter Sunday. COVID-19 mitigation procedures will continue to be observed in the choir loft during practices and recitals during worship services. As we don't have a vocal choir director, we welcome singers and instrumentalists who would be able to sing/play as soloists, duettists or in a small ensemble. They would be responsible for running their own practices. We're also seeking people interested in playing our standard bronze handbells (middle school students up through adults, no experience necessary), or elementary-aged students who would like to play our colored youth bells. If you are interested in singing, playing an instrument, or ringing handbells, please **let Debbie LoCascio know ASAP**, as she and Pastor will begin working on creating the Holy Week bulletins soon, and bell practices will need to be scheduled.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK – St. Mark’s is seeking volunteers to participate in a neighborhood Prayer Walk on **Sunday, March 14**. On this day, after our regular Divine Service, we will meet downstairs for a short Bible study. Afterward, weather permitting, we will go out into the neighborhood behind church as a group to walk through it and pray for the people there. This serves both as an aid to our prayer and as a public witness to our faith. We hope you will make plans now to join us for this important work! Accommodations will also be made for those unable to make the entire walk with us.

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.**

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*)

Tom LoCascio

Greeters (*either service*)

Carolynn Taylor

Offering Counters (*after late service*)

Joanne Wisti

Organist (*both services*)

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter (*either service*)

Chris Gerard

Usher (*both services*)

John Reardon

Video Technician (*either service*)

Darryl Swainson