

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

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27 ESV

The Seventh Sunday of Easter (*Exuadi*)

16 May AÐD 2021
Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter. On this day, we remember the hope that we have in Christ in the face of all hostility and persecution. As the Church, Jesus sends us out into a unbelieving world to witness to His salvation, a task which often brings suffering. However, whenever we suffer for Christ we can cling to Him, rejoicing for the opportunity to share in His sufferings, and taking comfort in the eternal victory which He has won.

If you are a VISITOR here, we'd like to 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 when we receive Holy Communion together, we are publicly declaring both our unity in Christ and our agreement in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10). 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 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.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 728 How Firm a Foundation



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



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



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



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

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 27:1, 11a, 12; antiphon: vv. 7a, 8b, 9a

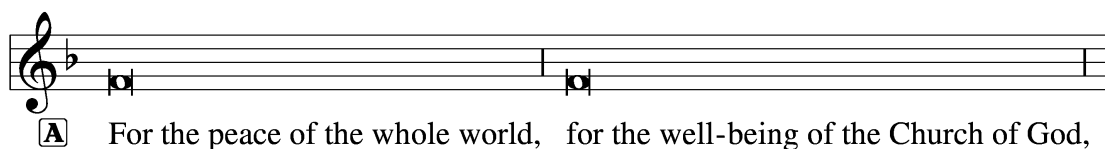
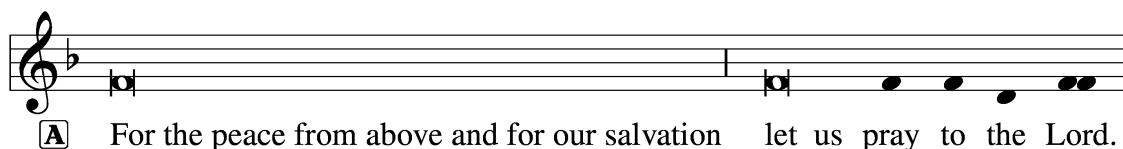
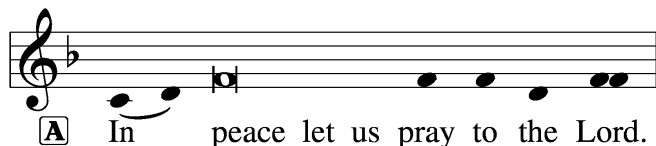
- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.
Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.
- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- C** **Teach me your way, O LORD;**
give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
- P** for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

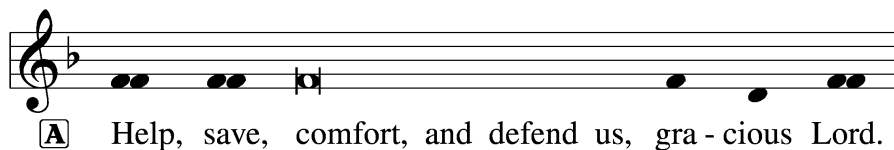
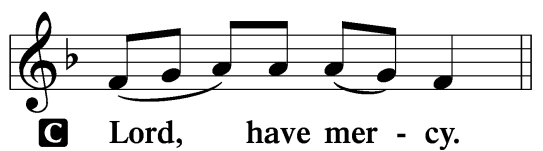
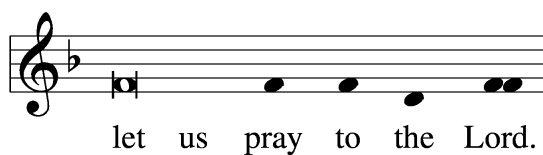
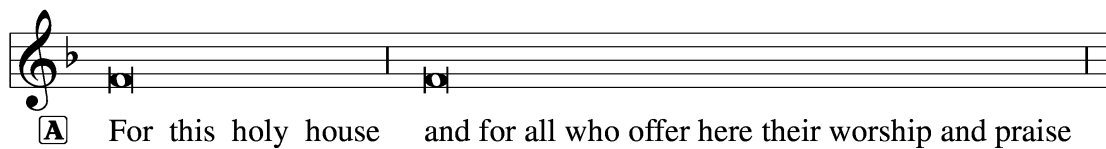
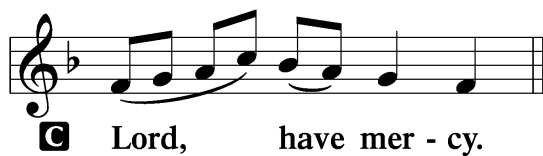
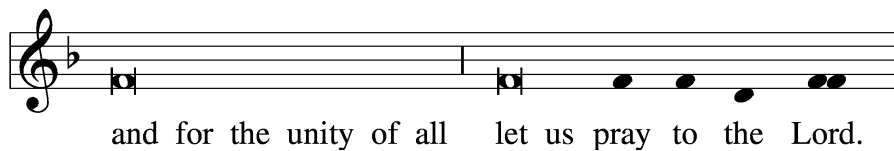
**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.
Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.

Kyrie

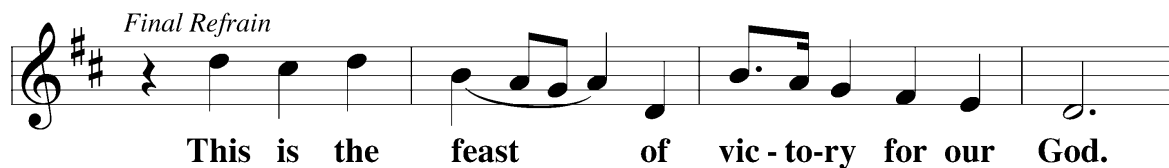
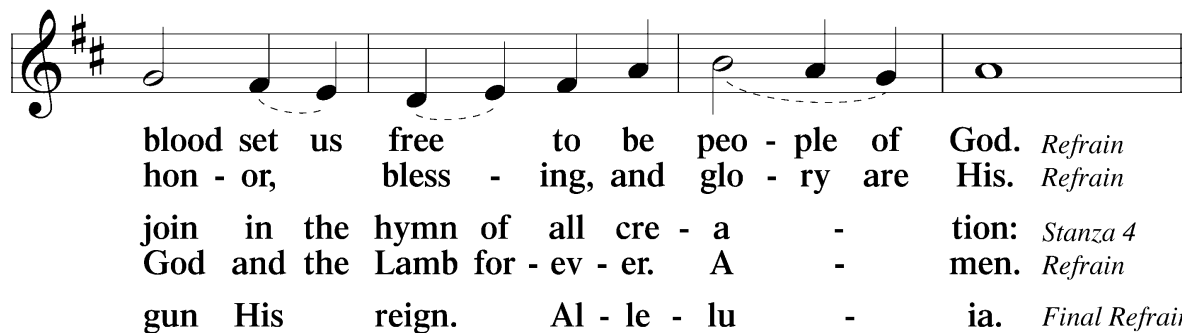
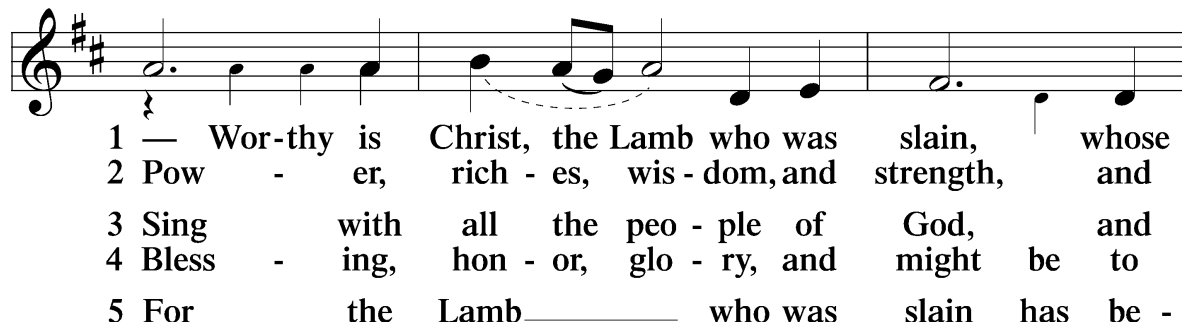
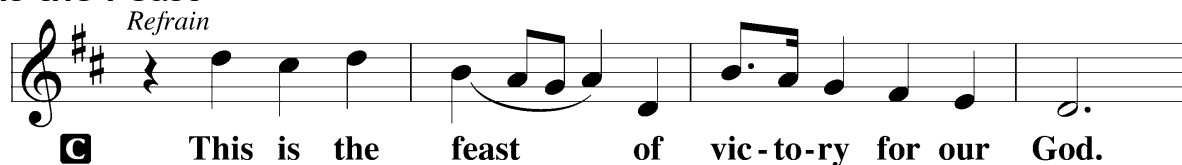
LSB 152



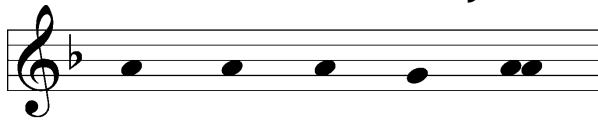


This Is the Feast

LSB 155



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:22–28

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual/Verse of the Day (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 47:8; John 14:18a, 28; 16:22b

(During the celebration of Easter, the Gradual is omitted and the Verse is expanded.)

P Alleluia. God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. Alleluia.

C I will not leave you as orphans;
I am going away, and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:7–14

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with more eighth and quarter notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written below the second staff.

Holy Gospel

John 15:26—16:4

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of a series of quarter notes. The lyrics "Glo - ry to You, O Lord." are written below the staff.

²⁶[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 539 Christ Is the World's Redeemer



1 Christ is the world's Re - deem - er, The lov - er of the pure,
2 Christ has our host sur - round - ed With clouds of mar - tyrs bright,
3 Down through the realm of dark - ness He strode in vic - to - ry,
△ 4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, The un - be - got - ten One,



The font of heav'n-ly wis - dom, Our trust and hope se - cure,
Who wave their palms in tri - umph And fire us for the fight.
And at the hour ap - point - ed He rose tri - um - phant-ly.
All hon - or be to Je - sus, His sole - be - got - ten Son,



The ar - mor of His sol - diers, The Lord of earth and sky,
Then Christ the cross as - cend - ed To save a world un - done
And now, to heav'n as - cend - ed, He sits up - on the throne
And to the Ho - ly Spir - it— The per - fect Trin - i - ty.



Our health while we are liv - ing, Our life when we shall die.
And, suf - f'ring for the sin - ful, Our full re - demp - tion won.
Whence He had ne'er de - part - ed, His Fa - ther's and His own.
Let all the worlds give an - swer: A - men! So let it be.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

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.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That Christ, our King of glory, triumphant above the heavens, would not leave us without consolation, but would send always the Spirit of Truth whom He promised from the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Church, that she would be strengthened in her witness, and would bear patiently all persecution, living always in the confidence that since Christ is for us, nothing can separate us from Him; and for all ministers and missionaries of the Church, that God would send laborers into His harvest and sustain those whom He has sent, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For boldness among God's children; for freedom from the fear of this world, from its temptations, its ways and its power; and that God would fix our eyes on Jesus alone, keeping us faithful to Him even unto death as we wait eagerly for the promised resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all in need, [*especially* _____,] that God would care for them perfectly, in body and in soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune this day, that since Christ has ascended on high to fill all things and is seated at the right hand of the Father's majesty to comfort His Church, so we would be assured that in His Supper He is indeed present with us according to His promise for the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks that through Your Holy Spirit You have appointed us to bear witness to Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Since the world in its unbelief cannot endure this testimony and rejects it, encourage and comfort us, we implore You, that we would not be offended by the cross or fall away in suffering, but continue steadfast in Your testimony and be found always among those who know You and Your Son until we obtain eternal salvation; 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 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

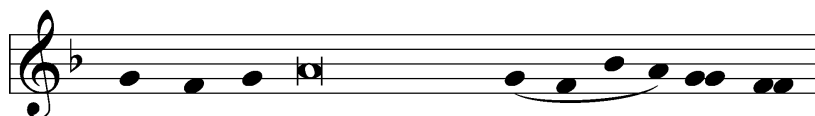
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



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 after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine 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

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.

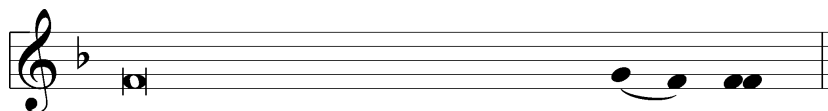
The Words of Our Lord

- 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.



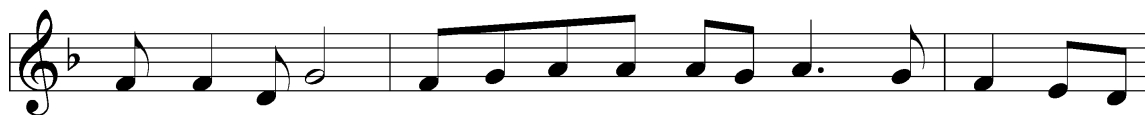
C A - men.

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: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



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



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



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

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Distribution Hymn: 658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



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



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



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



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

Tune: Public domain

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Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

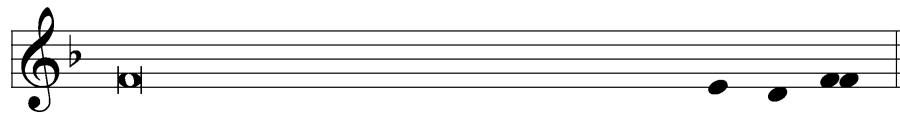
P Let us pray.

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: 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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 5/16** **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Armed Forces Sunday
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 5/17** **Pastor out of the office**
- Tue. 5/18** **Pastor out of the office in the afternoon**
Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.
- Fri. 5/21** **Deadline to submit June's newsletter articles**
- Sun. 5/23** **The Day of Pentecost**
Jay Anderson's Confirmation
- **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1. Hand sanitizer will be available on the table in the entryway. The usher will give each communicant a squirt of hand sanitizer before Communion, and sanitizer will be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following 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!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Please join Pastor Vergin after church **today** in the basement Fellowship Hall for Adult Bible Study starting **at 10:45 a.m.** He will resume teaching on the book of Genesis. Bring your friends and family to this educational study!

TWO ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY – Next **Sunday, May 23**, we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate and remember the Day of Pentecost where, ten days after ascending to the Father, Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit. Then on **Sunday, May 30**, we will gather again to celebrate and remember the Holy Trinity, rejoicing that God has revealed Himself to us in truth as we worship Him as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God, and yet three persons.

WHERE WILL WE SEND OUR TITHE? Last year, before we put our unused property up for sale, our congregation committed—as an act of thanksgiving to God and an expression of faith—to tithe 10% of the proceeds to support the mission of the Gospel in another place. Now that the sale is complete, we get to decide where we want to send this gift, totaling \$12,000. What a joyous opportunity! During the month of May, we will be taking a preliminary vote to narrow down the options before our June Voters' Meeting. To participate in this preliminary vote, please fill out a Voting Card and place it in the voting box, both of which are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Votes must be submitted no later than **Sunday, May 30**. You must be a Voting Member to participate. The list of potential recipients is also located on the back table. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Vergin!

UPCOMING SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – This summer's Semi-Annual Church Voters' Meeting will take place on **Sunday, June 13**, directly following the Divine Service. The meeting was moved from June 6 due to scheduling conflicts. Please note this important meeting on your calendars now and plan to attend, if you are able.

PRIVATE VISITS WITH PASTOR - During this time of COVID-19, Pastor is 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.

RECEIVING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR PROPERTY UPGRADES - As you think about how you might use your recent stimulus money, please consider—as an act of thanksgiving to God and an expression of faith—donating a certain percentage to St. Mark's to help us complete the property upgrades that were a part of our "New Beginnings" plan from last year. This will help advance our ministry to our community, while promoting a good first impression to visitors. Special offering envelopes are available on the bookshelf at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs for this initiative, as well as a list of intended upgrades. Please prayerfully consider donating!

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 in their store(s) to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested, 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!

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.**

DONATIONS FOR THE *INVISIBLE DAD* LUNCH PROGRAM - 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.

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.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister	Rev. Aaron Vergin
Acolyte	TBD
Altar Guild	Debbie Sidelinker
Elder on Duty	Darryl Swainson
Greeter(s)	Gail Fitzgerald
Offering Counters	Nancy Salo & Sharon Williams
Organist	Rob Wheeler
Trumpeter	Chris Gerard
Usher	Tom Kaufman
Video Technician	Karen Kaufman