

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

6 August A☩D 2023
Divine Service, Setting IV

✝ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✝

Today we celebrate the Ninth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider how God wants us to deal with money. By nature, we're inclined to place our trust in money, and to live for its sake. However, God wants us to place our trust in Him alone, remembering that He has saved us forever in the cross of Christ. Therefore, rather than idolizing money, we should treat it as a tool by which God equips us to bless others and further His kingdom.

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 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

Hymn of Invocation: 726 Evening and Morning



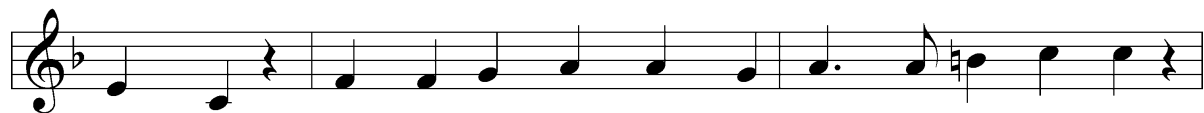
1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and
2 Fa - ther, O hear me, Par - don and spare me; Calm all my
3 Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though bil - lows
4 To God in heav - en All praise be giv - en! Come, let us



glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness: These are Thy works; all the
ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors That by Thine eyes they may
tow - er, And winds gain pow - er, Af - ter the storm the fair
of - fer And glad - ly prof - fer To the Cre - a - tor the



glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in
no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings, Di - rect all my
sun shows its face. Joys e'er in - creas - ing And peace nev - er
gifts He doth prize. He well re - ceiv - eth A heart that be -



slum - ber, Thine eye ob - serves us, From dan - ger pre - serves us,
do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;
ceas - ing: These shall I trea - sure And share in full mea - sure
liev - eth; Hymns that a - dore Him Are pre - cious be - fore Him



Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.
All I com - mit to Thy fa - ther - ly hand.
When in His man - sions God grants me a place.
And to His throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Hermann H. M. Brueckner, 1866–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

Text (sts. 3–4): © 1930 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 54:1–3, 7; antiphon: vv. 4–5

P Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

C He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

P O God, save me, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

C O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

P For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves.

C For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**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 Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

C He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Let Your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of Your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 22:26–34

²⁶“With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
²⁷with the purified you deal purely,
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
²⁸You save a humble people,

but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down.
²⁹For you are my lamp, O LORD,
and my God lightens my darkness.
³⁰For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.
³¹This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.
³²“For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?
³³This God is my strong refuge
and has made my way blameless.
³⁴He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 8:1

P O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C You have set your glory
above the heavens.

Epistle

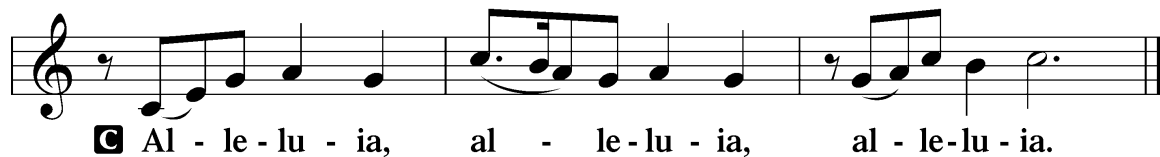
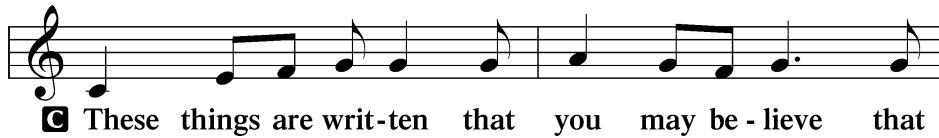
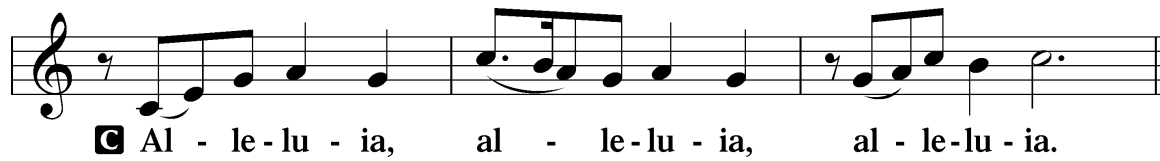
1 Corinthians 10:6–13

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Luke 16:1–13

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

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

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if

you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

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

Hymn of the Day: 730 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For faith, that God would deliver us from false trust in wealth and success and fix our hearts fully on His goodness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For pastors, that they may be righteous stewards who dispense the Lord's gifts in wisdom and abundance; and for all of God's people, that they would make proper use of His Means of Grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the people of God, that we neither misuse His gifts nor be captivated by worldly wealth, but that we would use them accordingly and for the good of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For integrity and uprightness, that we may be delivered from all cheating, swindling and robbery, seeking not our own advantage, but the good of others, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our president, Congress, governor, legislature, judges and all entrusted with authority, that they may serve well, act with integrity and heed the voice of God's Word in the fulfillment of their duties, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick or suffering, [*including* _____,] that they would receive strength to endure their trials until God removes them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune, that they would come to the Lord's Supper in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You have forgiven our debt of sin for the sake of Jesus. Preserve us in His grace and life until that day when You gather us with Your saints in glory around Your throne; 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!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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."

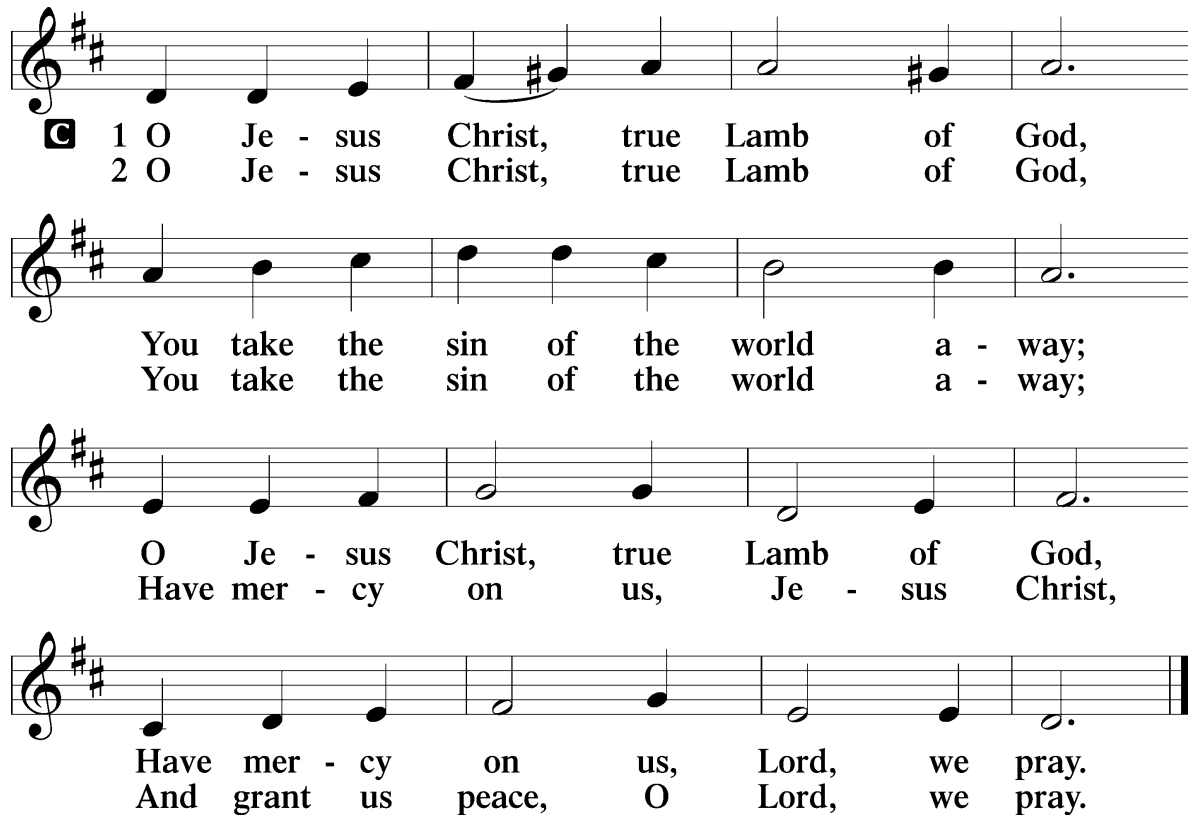
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

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

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion



1 Oh, how great is Your com - pas - sion, Faith - ful Fa - ther,
 2 Your great love for this has striv - en That we may, from
 3 Firm - ly to our soul's sal - va - tion Wit - ness - es Your
 4 Lord, Your mer - cy will not leave me; Ev - er will Your
 5 I will praise Your great com - pas - sion, Faith - ful Fa - ther,



God of grace, That with all our fall - en race
 sin made free, Live with You e - ter - nal - ly.
 Spir - it, Lord, In Your Sac - ra - ments and Word.
 truth a - bide. Then in You I will con - fide.
 God of grace, That with all our fall - en race



In our depth of deg - ra - da - tion You had mer - cy
 Your dear Son Him - self has giv - en And ex - tends His
 There He sends true con - so - la - tion, Giv - ing us the
 Since Your Word can - not de - ceive me, My sal - va - tion
 In our depth of deg - ra - da - tion You had mer - cy



so that we Might be saved e - ter - nal - ly!
 gra - cious call, To His sup - per leads us all.
 gift of faith That we fear not hell nor death.
 is to me Safe and sure e - ter - nal - ly.
 so that we Might be saved e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Schäffer-Belustigung . . . Hirthen-Lieder, 1653, Altdorf

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860

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Tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to 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.

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 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: 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home,
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints,
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit

When shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows
O sweet and pleas - ant soil! In thee no sor - row
Con - tin - ual - ly are green; There grow such sweet and
And ev - er - more do spring; There ev - er - more the

have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
an - gels dwell And ev - er - more do sing.

- 5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.
- 6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.
Tune: American
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 8/6** **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Thu. 8/10** **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun. 8/13** **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Frank Pies Presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AFTER CHURCH – All are invited to join Pastor Zwonitzer in the basement Fellowship Hall directly after church (10:45 a.m.) for Adult Bible Study. Pastor will be teaching on the 3 scripture lessons for today, and snacks will be available too. Please come and delve deeper into today's Bible readings!

QUILTING BEE – St. Mark's ladies' Quilting Bee group meets on **Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.** If you'd like to learn how to quilt, if you already know how to quilt, or even if you'd just be able to help the ladies tie knots, please join them! All of the finished quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief once or twice a year and then they get distributed to needy people in the U.S. and around the world. Please see Jennie Kaufman or Lynn Thomas if you have any questions.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – St. Mark’s is now in Step 5 of the Call Process and it involves the completion of 3 different surveys occurring simultaneously (see below). **Surveys #1 & 2 need to be completed by all church members**, if possible. Survey #3 is very lengthy and in-depth, requesting information about St. Mark’s--its history, its membership data, the community around it and more--and the Call Committee is currently working together to complete it.

Survey descriptions:

1. *Individuals in Sunday Worship Survey* - This survey must be completed by church attendees on 4 consecutive Sundays (July 30 - August 16). The half-page Sunday bulletin insert, which will be printed on different colored paper each Sunday, needs to be completed by church attendees early in the worship service and then placed in the offering plate during the offering. The tallied results will inform us as to who is attending worship each Sunday--adults, children, baptized members, confirmed members, etc. **Completion date is August 20.**
2. *St. Mark’s Self-Study Survey* - This survey is to be completed by all members of St. Mark’s (both active and inactive members) and can be found both online (at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/Cid4Rac/stmarkwestbloomfieldand>) and on paper (sitting on the table at the back of the sanctuary) for those who do not have access to the Internet. The survey asks for some personal member information, as well as member opinions on topics like: church/program(s) satisfaction, what members are looking for in a new pastor, St. Mark’s strengths and weaknesses, etc. **Completion date for all surveys is August 20.**
3. *Congregational Mission and Ministry Inventory* - This comprehensive and lengthy survey is currently being completed by our Call Committee and church leaders. It asks for data that will help St. Mark’s and the Michigan District discover where we are in gospel outreach, various ministries, staffing, finances, serving the community, goals, opportunities, and obstacles in reaching our ministry goals. **Our leaders hope to have this completed by August 20.**

Once completed, all three surveys will be tabulated and then representatives from the Michigan District LCMS will schedule a meeting at St. Mark’s (probably in September) to discuss the findings with us. That will be Step 6 in the Call Process. After their presentation of findings, St. Mark’s will move onto Step 7: receiving congregational nominations for pastoral candidates.

Please continue to keep St. Mark’s Call Committee and leaders in your prayers as they work through the Call Process. Any questions regarding the process can be directed to Darryl Swainson, Chairman.

LIVESTREAM WATCH PARTY FOR DUAL-PARISH MINISTRY – Peace Lutheran Church in Waterford will be hosting a circuit-wide livestream conference on Dual-Parish/Multi-Point Ministry sponsored by our Michigan District on **Saturday, August 26** from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The conference will explain the benefits of a dual-parish ministry (one pastor working with 2 congregations) and how these ministries can work to help churches support each other. Several of St. Mark's Call Committee members will be attending as they seek to better understand this concept and whether or not it would benefit St. Mark's in calling our next pastor. The conference is open to all LCMS church members in our Kensington Circuit. Lunch will be served to participants. Watch for more information and a registration link to appear in future bulletins.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE DINNER AT ST. PAUL, PONTIAC - St. Mark's will be providing a Community Dinner at St. Paul Lutheran Community Church in Pontiac on **Wednesday, August 30**. St. Paul's leaders have asked us to provide 120 meals for the event. Our Board of Human Care is asking for volunteers to provide food and/or help serve dinner at St. Paul from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Each meal will consist of:

- 12 oz. chicken pasta veggie salad
- 1 dinner roll
- 1 bag of chips (any variety)
- 1 fruit or applesauce cup
- 1 baggie with a brownie or cookie(s) inside

If you are able to help, please sign up on the easel board in the church lobby, or call/text Leslie Oehring at (248) 310-9173.

JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2023! For us Christians, there is no greater joy than meditating on the Holy Scriptures, for there God proclaims to us the Truth of Christ, so that in Him we might have life! With this in mind, the Board of Elders invites you to join in with other congregations in our Circuit by reading through the entire Bible in 2023. You can pick up at any time. **Please visit crafteddaily.com for the reading plan.**

ACCEPTING FLOWER FUND DONATIONS– St. Mark's Altar Flower Fund balance is starting to get low and, therefore, donations for it would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to donate toward having fresh flowers on our altar each Sunday, please place cash or check into a pink flower envelope, write "Altar Flowers" on the front, and place it in an offering plate. Thanks!

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 leave ¼" of the paper around the stamp.

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing "Joe Boway" on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark's), or visiting the St. Mark's website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

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!

RECEIVING DONATIONS FOR KEITH ELEMENTARY AGAIN – Keith Elementary School is just around the corner from St. Mark's. They have a lunch program called the Invisible Dad Lunch Program that was started several years ago by a dad of one of the students so that if a student forgot their lunch, or if their personal lunch fund balance was short, the school could offer them a full lunch at no cost to them. The state-sponsored lunch they would normally receive doesn't contain much food and isn't the healthiest, which is why this dad started the program. If you'd like to donate any loose change toward this beneficial program, please place your donation(s) in the glass jar on the table at the back of the sanctuary between now and next March. Then in March, we'll total up the change and send a check for that amount to Keith Elementary.

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



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rod Zwonitzer

Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Tom & Debbie LoCascio

Offering Counters

Ellen Rentola & Nancy Salo

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician (on hold for now)

N/A