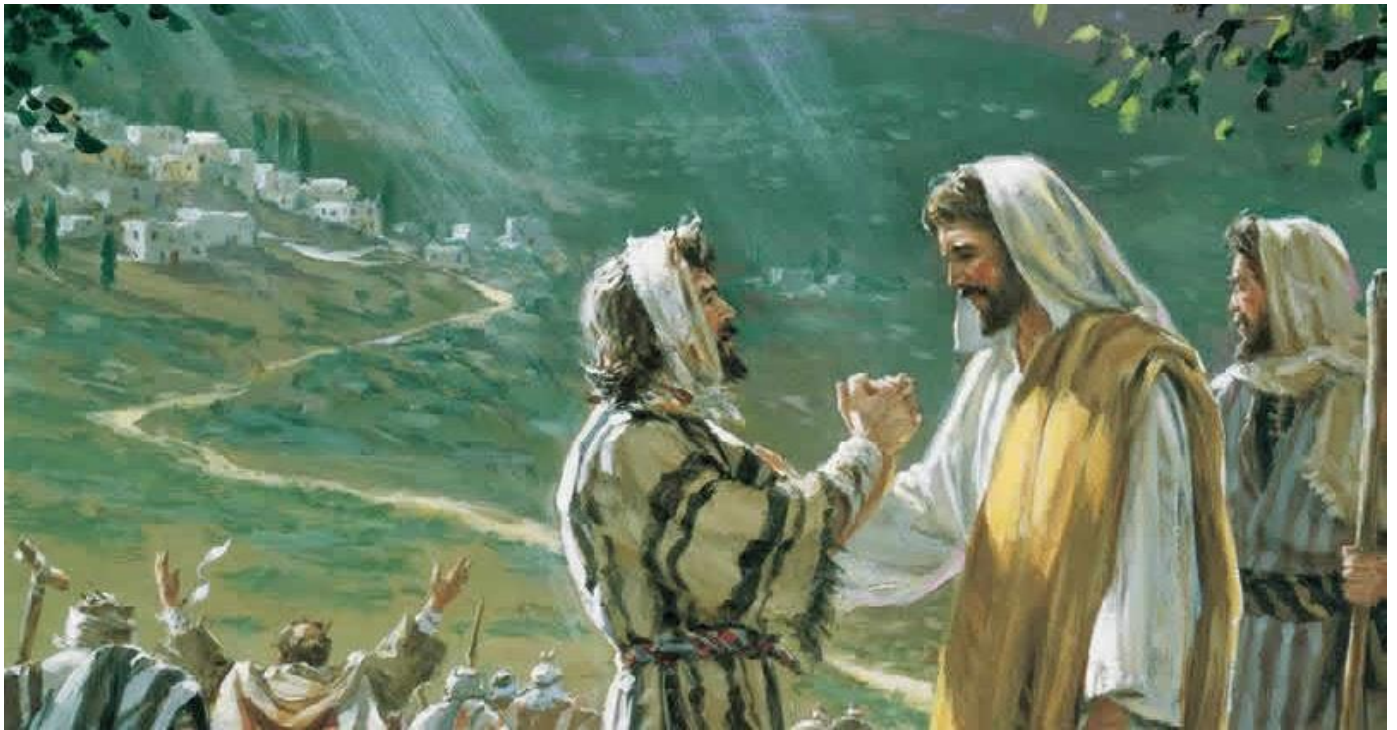


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10 September A.D. 2023

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we remember that the Christian life is a daily struggle against sin. Even though we've received God's Spirit, we still carry around our old sinful nature, which constantly leads us back into sin. Therefore, our Christian life is a struggle, and we often fall. However, we rejoice to know that as we walk by the Spirit our sins are covered, and that our old sinful flesh will finally pass away.

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 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: 892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,
4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To Thy fi-nal har-vest home;



All be safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
Wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, Un-to joy or sor-row grown.
From His field shall in that day All of-fens-es purge a-way,
Gath-er Thou Thy peo-ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap-pear.
Give His an-gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, In Thy gar-ner to a-bide:



Come to God's own tem-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har-vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit-ful ears to store In His gar-ner ev-er-more.
Come with all Thine an-gels, come, Raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 84:1–2a, 4, 10b, 11b; antiphon: vv. 9–10a

P Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

C For a day in your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

P How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD.

C Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

P I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

C The LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

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 our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

C For a day in your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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.

O Lord, keep Your Church with Your perpetual mercy; and because of our frailty we cannot but fall, keep us ever by Your help from all things hurtful and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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

Proverbs 4:10–23

¹⁰Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.

¹¹I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.

- ¹²When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- ¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of the evil.
- ¹⁵Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- ¹⁶For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.
- ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.
- ²⁰My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
- ²¹Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
- ²²For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their flesh.
- ²³Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 92:1–2

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

C to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.

Epistle

Galatians 5:16–24

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are
against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the
things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,
²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions,
divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned
you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But
the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

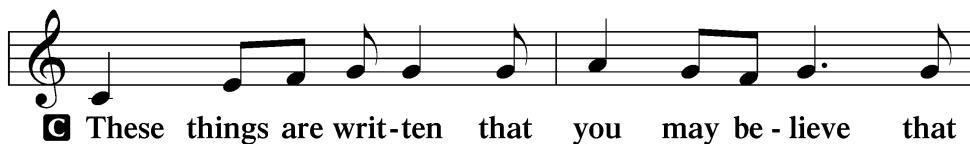
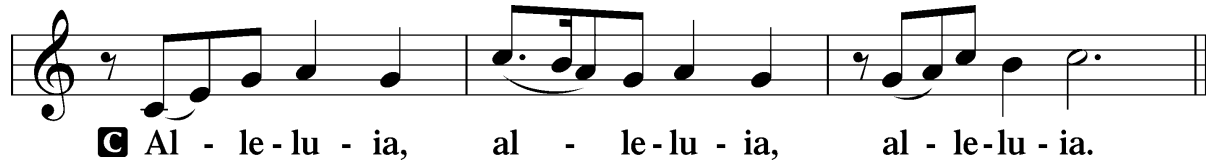
²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Luke 17:11–19

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

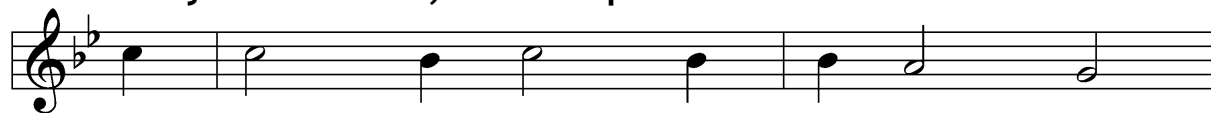
**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**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: 544 O Love, How Deep



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.

Tune: English, 15th cent.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

Great Physician, You will that the pains and ills of this life should draw us to the feet of Your Son. Strengthen and focus our faith in every trial and trouble, that we would be led to faithful worship in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Lord of hosts, You have prepared the Church of Christ to be a lovely court in the midst of a troubled world. Form our hearts to long for the place where Your glory dwells, that we may find healing and peace at His feet. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Almighty God, grant Your protection upon our land and people. Deliver us from violence and discord. Grant safety to all who work to bring peace to our land, including those in law enforcement and members in the armed forces. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Lord of life, You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The lepers came to Your Son for mercy. Send Your merciful hand upon the sick and needy [*including* _____]. Grant that their sicknesses would be turned to health and their troubles to joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Lord God, the 10th leper found the true and eternal priest in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to seek our healing from Him and to give Him thanks in the tabernacle of His Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, You gave Your Son once upon the cross, and You give to us His life-giving body in His Holy Supper. Teach us and strengthen us by this Sacrament to crucify our own flesh daily, that we may walk always according to His Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Receive our thanks, O Lord, for [*_____ and*] all the saints who have walked before us according to the Spirit. Inspire us after them to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit by the power of Christ crucified. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, 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.

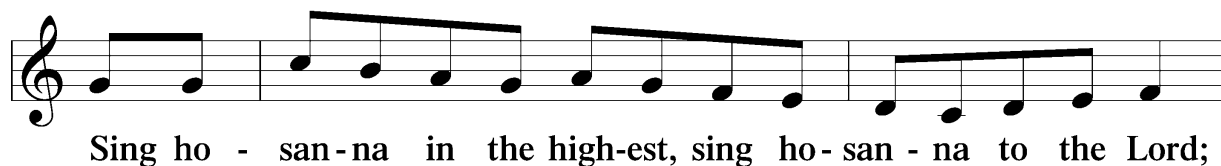
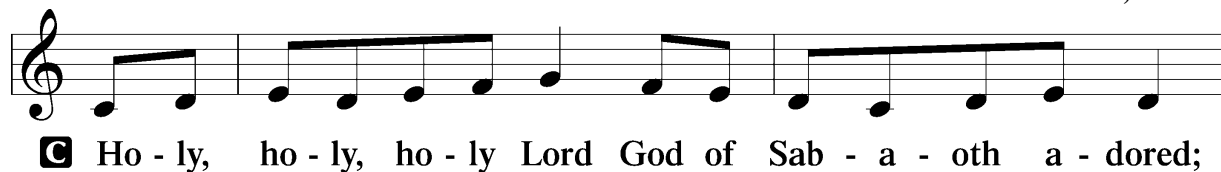
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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

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.

Distribution Hymn: 793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



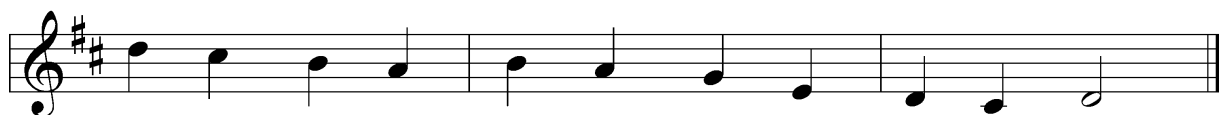
1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple
3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



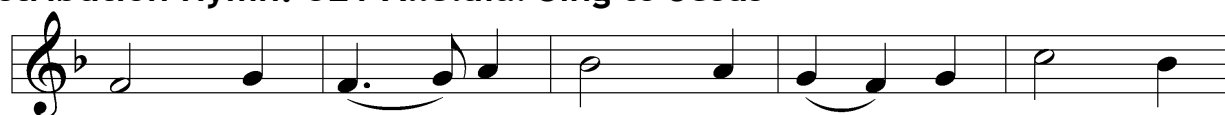
al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.
al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Tune: John Goss, 1800–80

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
 scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
 tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
 Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
 like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

1 O Lord, now let 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 lead 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: 895 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 9/10** **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Terry Nelson presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 9/11** **Patriot Day**
- Thu. 9/14** **Holy Cross Day**
Quilting Bee 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Fri. 9/15** **Deadline to submit October's newsletter articles**
- Sat. 9/16** **Church BINGO** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun. 9/17** **The Fifteenth 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 Nelson 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!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – All 3 surveys that the Michigan District required St. Mark's to complete have been finished and mailed to the District. Thanks to everyone who helped fill them out! The District will now compile the survey results into a report that will provide us with a comprehensive view of where we are in regards to being ready to call a new pastor, what we're looking for in a new pastor, etc. Once that report is ready, the District will contact St. Mark's to schedule a date to share it with us (this would then be Step 6 in the Call Process). Creating the report can take the District 3 or 4 weeks. After the District presents to St. Mark's, we will then move on to 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.

CHURCH BINGO NIGHT IS THIS SATURDAY! Calling all members of St. Mark's--young (kids included), old, and everywhere in between! If you're looking to get out of the house and have a great time with your fellow parishioners, we hope you'll attend our upcoming Church BINGO Night that will take place here this **Saturday, September 16** from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The event is being hosted by Nancy McInnis and the LoCascio's as a way to encourage continued Christian fellowship and companionship while we await our next permanent pastor. And, the event is FREE! The laughs will be FREE! Your hosts' comical reactions, also FREE! Prizes will include a variety of full-size candy bars and a few other little items. Snacks will include popcorn and drinks. No need to bring anything! BINGO chips and cards will be provided! Mark this on your calendars now! Come, and have a great time with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS TO OCCUR ON SEPTEMBER 24 - St. Mark's Ladies' Group has worked really hard since last fall to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and they are all so beautiful! The quilts will be shipped to LWR in mid-October, then be distributed to needy people throughout different areas of the world. On **Sunday, September 24**, Pastor Zwonitzer will be blessing the quilts at the end of the Divine Service before they are shipped overseas. We hope you will join us for worship on that day! St. Mark's Quilting Bee group continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. If you'd like to learn how to quilt, already know how to quilt, or would like to spend time helping to assemble the quilts, just show up on Thursday mornings! No quilting experience is necessary!

NEEDED: MORE MEMBERS FOR THE BOARD OF FAMILY & YOUTH – Now that Mandy Vergin has moved to Grand Haven, and Lynn Thomas has moved back to Texas, that leaves only Debbie LoCascio serving on the Board of Family and Youth, and she needs help! This is the board that oversees Wednesday Nights in Christ, Vacation Bible School and other Christian education/activities for the youth of St. Mark's. If interested, please see Debbie ASAP to ask any questions, or volunteer. Thanks so much!

CHURCH PLANNING MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER – Hmm...to have the annual Church Planning Meeting, or not; that was the question. And, after careful consideration, it's been decided that the Planning Meeting will go on! Even though we are in a pastoral vacancy, there are several good reasons to gather our church leaders to plan events for 2024. Some of these include: keeping the congregation engaged in doing the Lord's work, and also that a prospective pastor would be much more likely to consider accepting a call from a thriving, active congregation that is busy serving the Lord even in the absence of a permanent pastor. Therefore, on **Saturday, October 21** from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, we will be gathering our leaders in the Fellowship Hall to plan events for 2024. Essential participants include: all officers, and all chairmen and members of each of these church boards: Elders, Family & Youth, Gospel Outreach, Human Care, LWML, Parish Fellowship, & Properties. It's very important that all church leaders participate, if possible! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

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.**

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.

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!

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.

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.**

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC, IS SEEKING FOOD DONATIONS - The Father's Hands Food Pantry and Clothing Closet at St. Paul's has been very busy this summer. They served over 299 families in the pantry alone this past month. This has led to a depletion of their supplies. They are in urgent need for the following items:

- Powdered milk - 1qt envelopes or boxes
- Plain pasta - macaroni
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Non-starchy canned vegetables
- Peas, Corn or mixed vegetables
- Soups
- Rice
- Baked beans
- Protein bars
- Instant Potatoes
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Toilet paper, Tooth Paste, Hand sanitizer, Large bars of soap and diapers (size 5)

For Larger families they need:

- Family sized shampoo & conditioner
- Large cans of baked beans
- Large can of fruit
- large can of vegetables
- Large Rice, dried potatoes or spaghetti noodles
- Large cans of chicken or meat that will serve 5 or more.
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing soap
- Dried soup that serve 8 or more.

They are open for drop off on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-4:30 and Wednesdays from Noon - 5pm. They greatly appreciate any and all donations.

OPEN DOOR WILL BE HOSTING TWO FUNDRAISING EVENTS – The Open Door Outreach Center located on Cooley Lake Road in Waterford will be hosting two upcoming fundraising events, and everyone is invited to participate. First is their annual Julie Run/Walk to End Hunger that will take place on **Saturday, September 23** on the OCC Highland Lakes Campus (also on Cooley Lake Road). There will be an on-site photo booth, a warm-up exercise before the walk/run and more! Net proceeds will go to help those in need in our community. For more details and to register, visit: RUNSIGNUP.COM/JulieRunToEndHunger. Their second event will be the Annual Tea & Luncheon at the White Lake Oaks Golf Course, 991 N. Williams Lake Road, White Lake on **Monday, October 2**. The doors will open at 10:00 a.m., Tea & Scones will be available at 11:00 a.m., and Lunch will be served at 12:30 a.m. There will also be vendor tables, themed gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle, a live auction and a guest speaker. Tickets are \$50 per person and can either be purchased from the Open Door Thrift Store or online at: OpenDoorOutreachCenter.com. Net proceeds from the event will provide food, clothing, emergency services and referrals to those in need in our community.

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC, IS HOSTING A FREE VACCINE CLINIC - St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac is hosting a FREE vaccination clinic on **Wednesday, October 4** from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Rite-Aid Pharmacy is bringing vaccinations for Flu, Pneumonia, Shingles, Covid boosters, DTAP and RSV, which will have a copay. Sign up now to reserve your spot. St. John Lutheran will be hosting the Family Dinner that night as well, so after you get your vaccination, head to St. John's for a free dinner too! Bring the whole family and enjoy a nice meal and get vaccinated. Call St. Paul's church office to sign up, (248) 758-9019. You will need your ID and insurance card and booster card when you arrive.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Terry Nelson
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild
Elder on Duty
Greeter(s)
Offering Counters
Organist
Usher

Jennie Kaufman
Charlie Powell or Trent Johnson
Ellen Rentola
Mary Lockwood/Jean Swainson
Rob Wheeler
Matt Maier