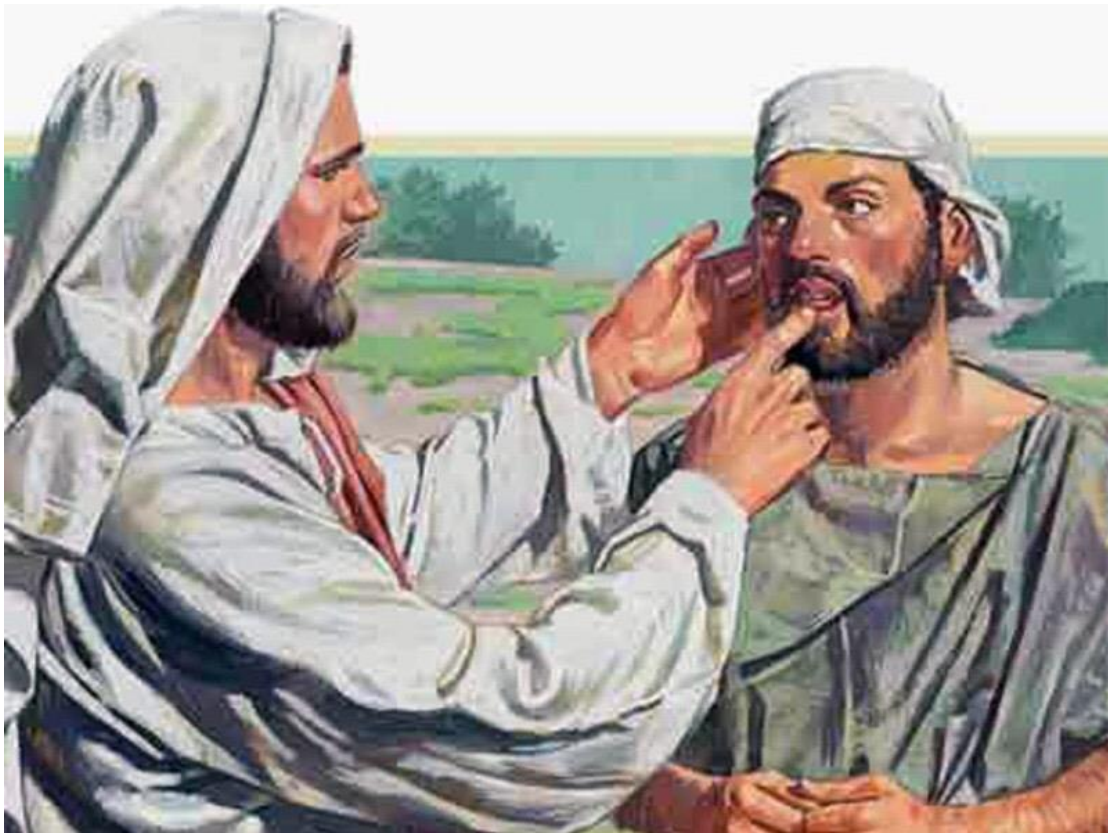


# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
7979 Commerce Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: [info@stmarkwb.org](mailto:info@stmarkwb.org)  
Website: [www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org)



## The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

27 August AÐD 2023

*Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we remember that it is God who enables us to hear His Word rightly, that we might be saved through faith. By nature, we are blind to God's mercy, and unable to believe. However, God lovingly comes to us in our powerlessness and opens our ears and our hearts through His Word. Therefore, having been given faith, we now lift up our voices in thanksgiving to God for His salvation.

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: 905 Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal

name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,

Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

## Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 70:2b, 4a, 5b; antiphon: vv. 1–2a*

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me!  
O LORD, make haste to help me!
- C** Let them be put to shame and confusion  
who seek my life!
- P** Let them be turned back  
and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt!
- C** May all who seek you rejoice  
and be glad in you!
- P** You are my help and my deliverer;  
O LORD, do not delay!

**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** Make haste, O God, to deliver me!  
O LORD, make haste to help me!
- C** Let them be put to shame and confusion  
who seek my life!

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

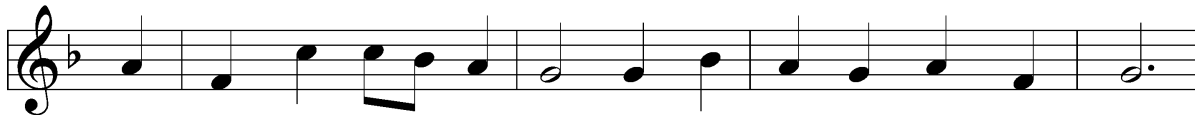
*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



- 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.

Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

<sup>17</sup>Is it not yet a very little while  
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,  
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

<sup>18</sup>In that day the deaf shall hear  
the words of a book,  
and out of their gloom and darkness  
the eyes of the blind shall see.

<sup>19</sup>The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,  
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>20</sup>For the ruthless shall come to nothing  
and the scoffer cease,  
and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,

<sup>21</sup>who by a word make a man out to be an offender,  
and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate,  
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

<sup>22</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

“Jacob shall no more be ashamed,  
no more shall his face grow pale.

<sup>23</sup>For when he sees his children,  
the work of my hands, in his midst,  
they will sanctify my name;  
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob  
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding,  
and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 34:1–2*

**P** I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**C** My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.

## Epistle

Romans 10:9–17

[St. Paul writes:] <sup>9</sup>...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

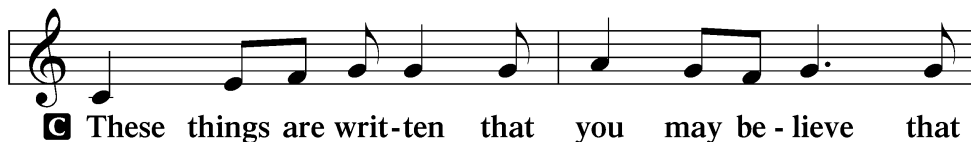
<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse





## Holy Gospel

*Mark 7:31–37*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

**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: 846 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old  
 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,  
 3 O be our great de - liv - 'er still,

Was strong to heal and save; It tri - umphed o - ver  
 Gave speech and strength and sight; And youth re - newed and  
 The Lord of life and death; Re - store and quick - en,

ills and death, O'er dark - ness and the grave.  
 fren - zy calmed Re - vealed You, Lord of light.  
 soothe and bless, With Your life - giv - ing breath.

To You they came, the blind, the mute,  
 And now, O Lord, the be near to bless,  
 To hands that work and eyes that see

The pal - sied and the lame, The lep - ers in their  
 Al - might - y as be - fore, In crowd - ed street, by  
 Give wis - dom's heal - ing pow'r That whole and sick and

mis - er - y, The sick with fe - vered frame.  
 beds of pain, As by Gen - nes - 'ret's shore.  
 weak and strong May praise You ev - er - more.

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

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

Bless this congregation, that our ears would be opened by the Spirit to the Gospel of peace and salvation, and that our lips would show forth our thanks and praise.

Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Bless the Church throughout the world and our Synod, especially our district, that all congregations, pastors and agencies would serve faithfully and without fear.

Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Bless all in authority by whose service You provide the gift of order, including parents and family, our government, our police and firemen, our military, and our schools. Give them strength and endurance to carry out their duties for the good of those entrusted to their care. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Bless the sick, the frail and the dying [*including* \_\_\_\_\_]. Restore them to health. We pray also for doctors, nurses, therapists and all who tend our brothers and sisters in need. Bless them as they put the talents You have given them to good use. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Bless all who will partake this day of Christ's most precious body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. Give them discernment of His body, that they would come to His table in humility and faith to receive the forgiveness of sins and salvation.

Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, You brought us forth by the word of truth by Your own gracious will. Implant the word of truth in us, which is able to save our souls, that we may be the firstfruits of the new creation; 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: 818 In Thee Is Gladness



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,  
 2 Since He is ours, \_\_\_\_\_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of

sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of  
 earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -

heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou  
 tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the

wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -  
 sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -

cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
 joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for

pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing  
 glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him

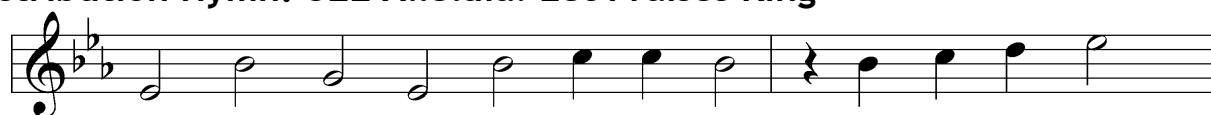
To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! To God the Fa -  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to the Lamb  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to the Ho -  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.  
 of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.  
 ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.  
 une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -  
 He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in  
 The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to  
 With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.  
 that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.  
 the Bride-groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.  
 es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.  
 Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;  
 Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.  
 His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.  
 There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.  
 Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

Text: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

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 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 the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the 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: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®),  
copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights  
reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 8/27**     **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Pastor Terry Nelson presiding**  
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.  
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Wed. 8/30**     **Serve Dinner at St. Paul, Pontiac, 5:30 p.m.**
- Thu. 8/31**     **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sat. 9/2**        **Men's Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun. 9/3**        **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer 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!

**YOUNG ADULTS INVITED TO PLAY KICKBALL** – Calling all young adults—single, married, or with children! Pastor Moyer and Faith Lutheran Church invites you to join their young adults for a game of Kickball tomorrow, **Monday, August 28**, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Food will be provided! If you'd like to attend, please let Trent Johnson know ASAP!

**MORE FOOD DONATIONS ARE NEEDED THIS WEEEEK!** St. Mark's will be providing a Community Dinner at St. Paul Lutheran Community Church in Pontiac this **Wednesday, August 30**, but we need more food donations! St. Paul's leaders have asked us to provide 120 meals for the event. 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 donate any of the food items listed on the sign-up sheet, **PLEASE** sign up ASAP for them, or call/text Leslie Oehring at (248) 310-9173. All food donations will need to be dropped off at St. Mark's by Wednesday morning! Thanks in advance for any food donations you can provide!

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON SEPTEMBER 2** – All men are welcome attend **this Saturday's** Men's Bible Study (**September 2**) from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Church member, Chris Gerard, will continue teaching on the book of Daniel leading up to the study of Revelation. A light breakfast will be provided to attendees. We hope you will attend!

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** – All 3 surveys that the Michigan District required St. Mark's to complete have been finished. Thanks to everyone who helped fill them out! Very soon, the District will begin compiling 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. 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.

**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.

**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](http://crafteddaily.com) for the reading plan.**

**CHURCH GAME NIGHT COMING SOON!** On **Saturday, September 16**, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., the LoCascio's and Nancy McInnis have volunteered to host a Church Game Night here at church, and everyone is invited! The goal here is just to get our parishioners together for some fun and laughs, especially during our lengthy pastoral vacancy. Details are still being planned (it might just be a BINGO night), so watch future bulletins and the newsletter for more information! Be sure to mark your calendars now for September 16 and plan to attend, if you are able!

**NEEDED: MORE MEMBERS FOR THE BOARD OF FAMILY & YOUTH** – Now that Mandy Vergin has moved to Grand Haven, and Lynn Thomas will be moving back to Texas on October 1, 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! There are several reasons for this, but the biggest one would probably be 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** (please notice the date change from September) from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, we will be gathering our leaders in the Fellowship Hall to plan events for 2024. It's very important that all church leaders participate, if possible! This would include all officers and all of the members of each of these church boards: Elders, Family & Youth, Gospel Outreach, Human Care, LWML, Parish Fellowship, & Properties. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

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.

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.

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](https://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](https://OpenDoorOutreachCenter.com). Net proceeds from the event will provide food, clothing, emergency services and referrals to those in need in our community.

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. Terry Nelson  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Altar Guild

Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Mary Ann Lockwood

Offering Counters

Ellen Rentola & Nancy Salo

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Tom Kaufman

Video Technician (on hold for now)

N/A