

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

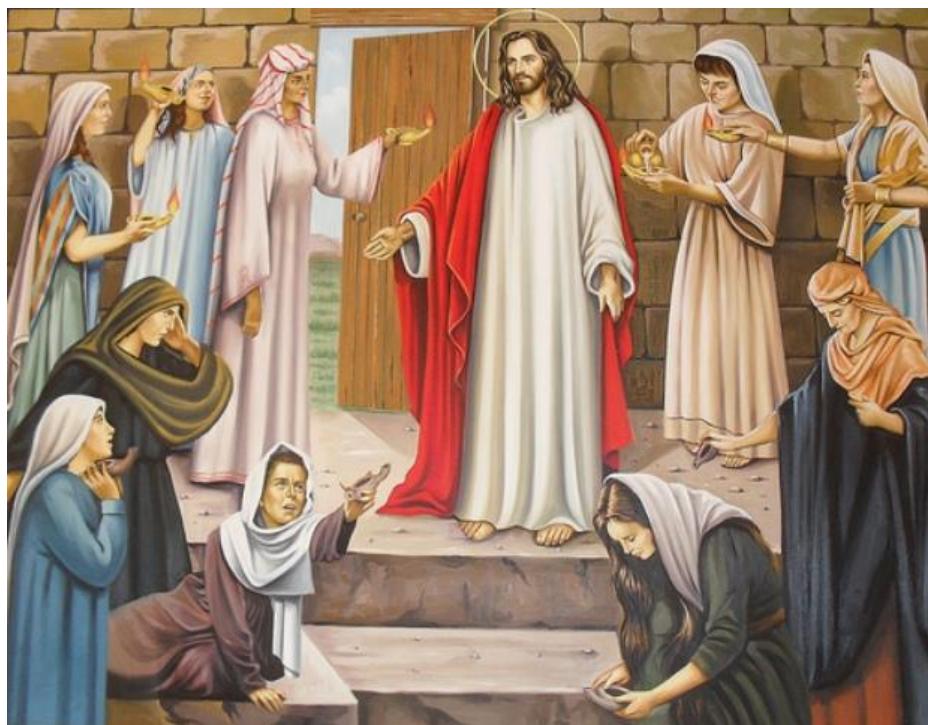
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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The Last Sunday of the Church Year

21 November A.D. 2021

Divine Service, Setting IV

† Welcome in the name of Jesus! †

Today we observe the Last Sunday of the Church Year. On this day, we remember with joy the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, that someday soon He will return in glory to judge His enemies and to deliver to us His eternal kingdom. While we do not know when this Day will be, we recognize that it is drawing near. Therefore, we remain ever watchful, sustained by God's Word, and we rejoice to know that our deliverance is at hand.

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

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

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

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that when we receive Holy Communion together, we are publicly declaring both our unity in Christ and our agreement in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P 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: 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw-ing near When Je - sus, God's a-noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea-sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be -neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
Who here de -spised His pre-cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev -'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
tre - sures! With shame and trem -bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound-less pow'r, Be changed at His com-mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and
merit
Read from His book that we are
free
With all who life inherit.

Then we shall see Him face to
face,
With all His saints in that blest
place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us
free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10

- P** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- C** They shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- P** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
- C** Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing
before you.
Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!
- P** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
- C** Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

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** The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
- C** They shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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-shiped 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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; 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

Isaiah 65:17–25

¹⁷“Behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.

²⁴Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent’s food.

They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain,”
says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 45:14–15

- P** In many-colored robes [the king's daughter] is led to the king,
with her virgin companions following behind her.
C With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, And all her heart with
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym-bals' clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel-come voic - es And at the thrill-ing
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join-ing with the

cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.

The Bride - groom comes, a-wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your-selves pre - pare
Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly

To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."
To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

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.

Heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter His eternal wedding feast. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Lord, our hope is in You. Grant all pastors and servants of Your Church to proclaim that hope in boldness and clarity. Bless also the work of all missionaries, especially Joe Boway. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Grant to all Your baptized people diligence to watch for the Savior's appearing, that they may be prepared for that joyous day. Bless our congregation, bless Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia, and bless all Christian congregations, that they might remain steadfast in faith throughout these days of tribulation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** King of the nations, hear our prayers for those who lead our country and all who serve in our military. Fill them with Your wisdom, and protect them in every danger. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Lord God, You promise everlasting joy to Your people. Remember all in trying circumstances: the sick, the suffering, the dying, the mourning [*especially Your servants _____*]. Comfort them with Your divine promises, and grant Your healing peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Giver of the feast, You provide a foretaste of the divine wedding banquet at Your Son's table. Grant repentance and faith to all who commune this day, that they may receive His body and blood in a worthy manner and show forth His praise in their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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!

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 \ddagger 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 \ddagger 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.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 534 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below each staff. The first staff contains four lines of lyrics. The second staff contains three lines of lyrics. The third staff contains four lines of lyrics. The fourth staff contains four lines of lyrics.

1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, First - be - got - ten
2 Though the low - liest form now veil You As of old in
3 Pas - chal Lamb, Your of - f'reng, fin - ished Once for all when
4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, Strick - en rock with

from the dead, You a - lone, our strong de - fend - er,
Beth - le - hem, Here as there Your an - gels hail You,
You were slain, In its full - ness un - di - min - ished
stream - ing side, Heav'n and earth with loud ho - san - na

Lift - ing up Your peo - ple's head. Al - le - lu - ia,
Branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le - lu - ia,
Shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le - lu - ia,
Wor - ship You, the Lamb who died, Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Cleans - ing souls from
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
join with them; We in wor - ship join with them.
ev - 'ry stain; Cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
glo - ri - fied! Ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find -
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -feat -
4 Watch a - gainst your-self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
5 But while watch-ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -

en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -

tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -

har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Tune and text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

C 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 the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the 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 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: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below each staff. The first staff contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second staff contains lines 5-8. The third staff contains lines 9-12. The fourth staff contains lines 13-16.

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth-ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence

For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'r's of hell to
As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 11/21 The Last Sunday of the Church Year

- Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m.

Mon. 11/22 Pastor out of the Office

Tue. 11/23 Pastor out of the Office in the afternoon
Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Wed. 11/24 Newsletter Distribution

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7 p.m.

Thu. 11/25 Thanksgiving Day – church office closed

Fri. 11/26 Church Office closed for the holiday

Sat. 11/27 Decorate St. Mark's for Christmas 10 a.m.

Sun. 11/28 The First Sunday in Advent

- Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available on the table in the entryway if you decide to use them.
2. Those who wish may request a squirt of hand sanitizer from the usher before Holy Communion, and sanitizer will also be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following Communion.
3. The "Sharing of the Peace" will be temporarily suspended.

Pastor's sermons will still be posted on St. Mark's Facebook page a day or two after each service. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL – Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join us for Sunday School this morning right after the Divine Service in the Library. Sunday School takes place at the same time as the Adult Bible Study class **from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. each Sunday**. Kids will hear a different Bible story each week; what a great way for them to learn about Jesus! And kids are certainly welcome to bring friends and/or family with them also!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Our Sunday Adult Bible Study takes place **each Sunday morning after the Divine Service (around 10:45 a.m.)** in the basement fellowship hall, and all are welcome to attend! This morning, Pastor Vergin will continue teaching on the book of Genesis, and we hope you will join him!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS WEDNESDAY – We hope you will join us as we gather to give thanks and praise to our Lord during our Thanksgiving Eve worship service this **Wednesday, November 24** at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

DECORATE ST. MARK'S FOR CHRISTMAS THIS SATURDAY! This year's Decorate the Church event will be held on **Saturday, November 27** starting at 10 a.m. We hope that those of you who will still be in town that weekend will consider volunteering an hour or two of your time to help put up decorations. Thanks in advance for your help!

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS NEXT WEEK - On **Sunday, November 28**, the Church will once again enter into the season of Advent. This season marks the beginning of a new Church Year, and serves as a time of penitential waiting, in which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ with joy. The season will also include 3 midweek Wednesday worship services at 7 p.m. on December 1, 8, 15. We hope you will take this time to devote yourself again to Christ, who comes to save, through the hearing of His Word and through faithful service in His kingdom!

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – On **Sunday, December 5**, following the Divine Service, we will be holding our Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting in the basement Fellowship Hall. The agenda will include board reports, board/officer elections, and discussion/approval of a budget for 2022. All church members ages 18+ are encouraged to attend! Please mark this important date on your calendars now and plan to attend, if possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM – St. Mark's Board of Human Care and the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford are seeking volunteers to help with this year's Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program. There are several ways you can help: 1) sign up to adopt a family from the poster on the easel in the lobby, and take a label with a person's name, sizes, etc. on it so you can purchase a Christmas gift for them; 2) volunteer to pick up Christmas gifts from the Open Door and take them to St. Mark's on **Tuesday, December 7** (on an on-call basis); and/or 3) help distribute the purchased gifts to the needy families on **Thursday, December 9** at St. Mark's between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The sign-up sheet for items 2 & 3 above is located on the clip board on the table. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Karen Kaufman.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE – Advent daily devotional booklets (blue-colored) sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. They are free, and each day starting November 28 offers a new devotion and Bible verse. Take one home today and let Advent serve as a time of prayer and study of God’s Word!

THE OPEN DOOR HAS AN IMMEDIATE NEED for kids’ pajamas (boys, girls...it doesn’t matter) in sizes Newborn to 3T. They also need kids’ socks in sizes baby, toddler and grade school. If you can help, please place your donations in the Open Door bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Any questions can be directed to Leslie Oehring.

THE NEXT MEN’S BIBLE STUDY will take place here on **Saturday, December 4** from 9 – 10:30 a.m. in the basement fellowship hall. All men are welcome to attend! Feel free to bring a friend or relative too.

FUNDRAISERS TO SUPPORT LIBERIAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL – St. Mark’s Board of Human Care will be hosting several different fundraisers over the next year in an effort to raise the \$3,000 that is needed to install a new well at the Liberian Lutheran School that we support. **The next fundraising opportunity is another Can/Bottle Drive that will take place here on Sunday, December 5.** Bring your cans & bottles to church with you that day and Karen Kaufman will take them. You may also choose to give a cash donation by placing any amount (checks made payable to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church) in a green pew envelope (write “Joe Boway” on the front of the envelope), or you can visit St. Mark’s website and click on our online giving button where you can donate to the fund called “Joe Boway/Liberian School.” Check the fundraising poster at the top of the basement stairs for dollar updates.

ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR THE LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE – This is the time of year when the members of our congregation have the opportunity to order, or renew, subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* (LW) magazine, the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Published 11 times per year, LW provides laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each issue of LW includes a free copy of the *Michigan In Touch* supplement published by our Michigan District LCMS. Next year’s LW subscriptions will run from March 2022 through February 2023 and a subscription costs \$11.60 per year if ordered through St. Mark’s. If you’d like to start a new subscription, or renew this year’s, please place your check for \$11.60 (made payable to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church) into a green envelope (found in the pew racks), write “Lutheran Witness” on the front of the envelope, and place it into an offering plate **no later than December 8, 2021.**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER SOME CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS? We are now accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will be used to help decorate St. Mark’s altar area for Christmas, after which time you can take yours home with you, if you wish. Each poinsettia plant costs \$10 and will contain 5-6 blooms. For more information, please see the pink insert found in today’s service folder. All orders must be turned in to the church office **no later than December 17.**

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.**

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the envelope paper around the stamp.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR INVISIBLE DAD FUNDRAISER where you can donate your extra coins or cash into the jar on the rear table in the sanctuary in order to help provide lunches to underprivileged students at Keith Elementary School. We will continue to receive donations year round, and will deliver a check for the accumulated donations to Keith sometime during March of 2022. Thanks in advance for helping students in need in our neighborhood!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

John & Debbie Sidelinker

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Tom Kaufman

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman