

MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

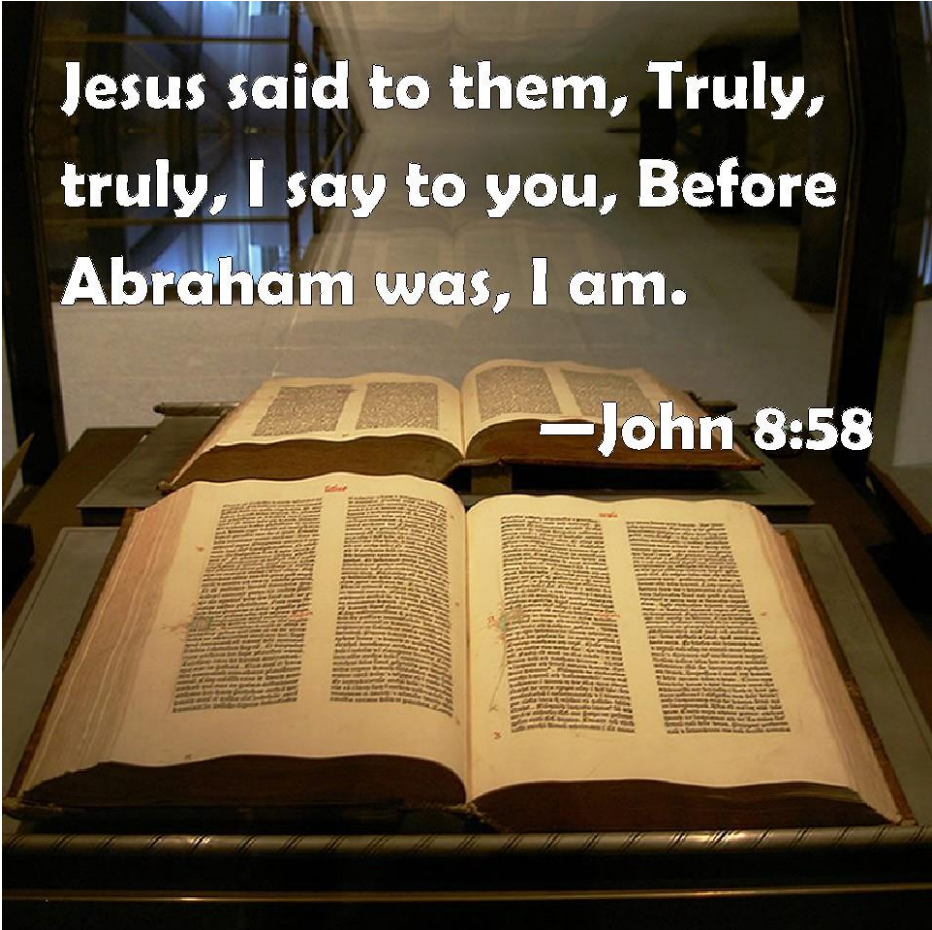
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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**Jesus said to them, Truly,
truly, I say to you, Before
Abraham was, I am.**

—John 8:58

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

17 March A✠D 2024

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fifth Sunday in Lent. On this day, we consider the true magnitude of the sacrifice by which God has redeemed us. Just as Abraham dearly loved his son Isaac, so also God the Father loved His Own Son, begotten by Him from all eternity. And yet God was willing to sacrifice Jesus, even giving Him into death, so that we might be saved. Today, we marvel at our Creator's amazing love and rejoice to receive that redemption.

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 receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). 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 with us the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (spoken responsively)

Psalm 43:3–5; antiphon: vv. 1–2a

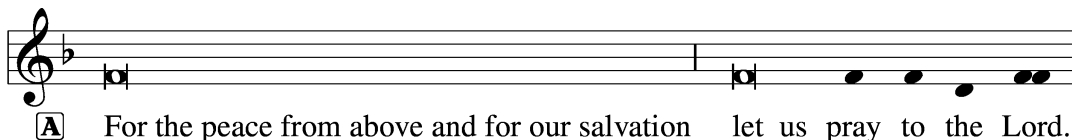
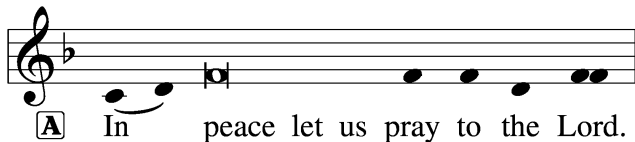
- P** Vindicate me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**
For you are the God in whom I take refuge.
- P** Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
C **Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,**
and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

**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** Vindicate me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people,
C **from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!**
For you are the God in whom I take refuge.

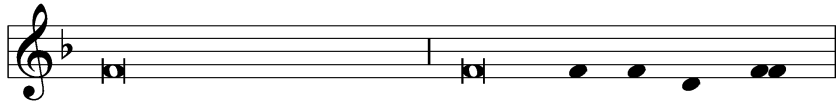
Kyrie

LSB 152





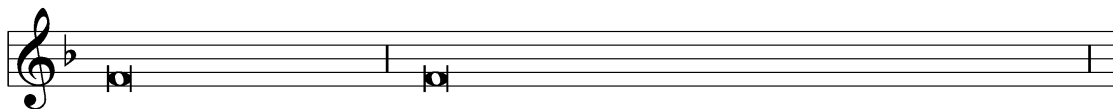
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



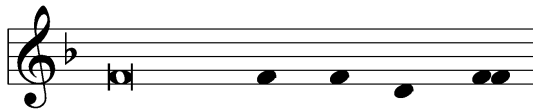
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



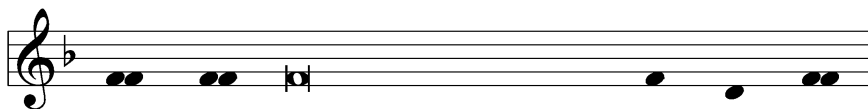
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

NOTE: During Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the

ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 143:9a, 10a; 18:48a, c

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

C [You] delivered me from my enemies;
you rescued me from the man of violence.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 129:1–4

(During the “Gesima” Sundays and Lent, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is used instead.)

P “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—
let Israel now say—

C “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.

P The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”

C The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.

Holy Gospel

John 8:46–59

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁴⁶[Jesus said,] “Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 430 My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.

What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

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Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed (*used during Lent*)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Spirit and the communion of the saints, that God would raise us up from dry and weary despair to be strong in faith, bold in witness, holy in life and steadfast in hope, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who hate and persecute us, that by His gracious visitation God would lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, to be of one accord, and to share one mind and heart with us and with His whole Church, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all godly parents, that they may direct their ways according to the Scriptures and commend their children to the care of our God and Father, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Joseph, our president; *Gretchen*, our governor; and all civil authorities, that our nation would be preserved in peace and all Christians be allowed to live quiet and peaceable lives in godliness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in need, [*especially* _____,] that God would mercifully receive our prayers through the intercession of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest; and that He would answer our petitions on account of the merits and mediation of His Son, our Savior, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who commune, that God would prepare our hearts and give us faith in Christ, our High Priest and Mediator; and that we would thus be worthy to eat His body and drink His blood, going in full confidence to the altar of God, our exceeding joy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, that we may not be deceived by that liar and murderer the devil, but know Your truth and so come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

NOTE REGARDING THE OFFERING – Offering plates are located at the sanctuary exit doors where you may leave your offering as you depart today.

Stand
Offertory

LSB 159

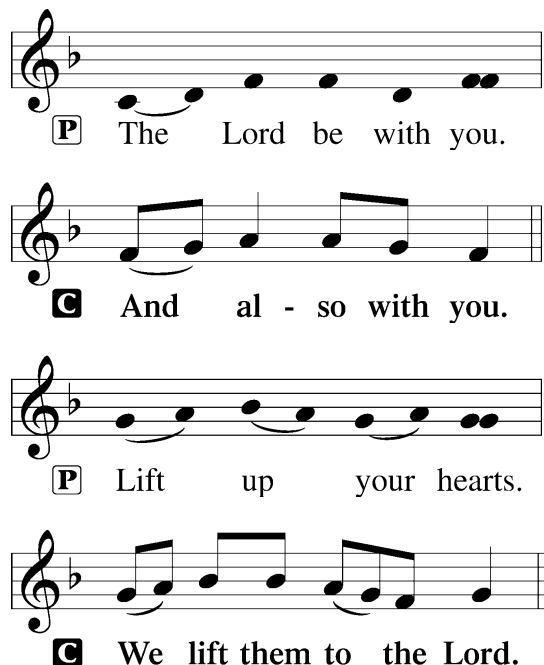


What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

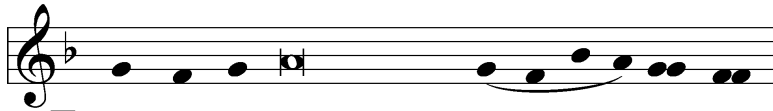
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast

of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

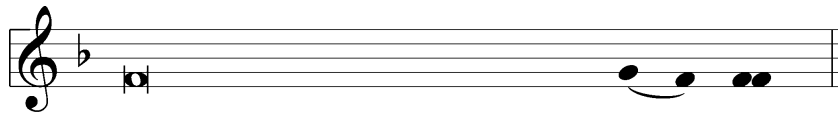
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur-vey the won-drous cross On which the
2 For-bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor-row and
4 Were the whole realm of na-ture mine, That were a
Prince of Glo-ry died, My rich-est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min-gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib-ute far too small; Love so a-maz-ing,
count but loss And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac-ri-fice them to His blood.
sor-row meet Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
so di-vine, De-mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion



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



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



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



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

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

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

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

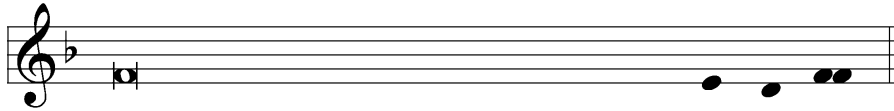
Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn: 547 The Lamb

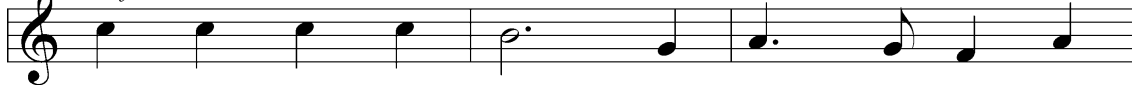


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 3/17 The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Terry Nelson, presiding

- **The Divine Service 9:30 a.m.**
- **Debbie LoCascio Retirement Potluck 11:00 a.m.**

Tues. 3/19 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m., Library

Thur. 3/21 Quilting Bee 10:00 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room

Fri. 3/22 Distribution of Newsletter

Sun. 3/24 Palm/Passion Sunday

Rev. Rod Zwonitzer, presiding

- **The Divine Service 9:30 a.m.**
- **Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m.**

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE CLASS – All are welcome to join Pastor in the Fellowship Hall right after worship this morning for the Adult Bible Class. Start your week off right by delving deeper into God's Word and attending this educational class!

QUILTING BEE ON THURSDAYS –Anyone who would like to learn how to quilt, (or even if you already know how to quilt) are welcome to join our Quilting Bee group that meets each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the upstairs senior youth room. The quilters work pretty much year 'round to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and then LWR distributes the quilts to needy individuals worldwide. Many hands make for light work, so if you'd like to help, just show up on any Thursday!

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE ST. MARK'S –During Wednesdays in Lent we hope you will attend worship at one of our sister congregations at 7 pm. These three congregations will be having these services this year:

- Peace Lutheran, Waterford
- Faith Lutheran, Highland
- Christ Lutheran, Milford

May they be found to enrich your faith walk.

REMINDER: LENTEN COIN HOLDERS - This year's coin folder donations will be going toward the Ziah Town Lutheran School Fund as we continue to help missionary, Joe Boway, provide catechism books and other needed supplies to the students there. Please place your full folder into any offering plate by Easter Sunday or before.

SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING is being called and will be held on **April 7th** in the fellowship hall, lower level, right after the 9:30 am service. It is important that everyone attend this meeting if able.

NEW [PHONE] CALL COMMITTEE – Phone calls, I mean!! St. Mark's is looking to start a new phone call ministry. The phone calls would be made once a month to all members from St. Mark's to:

- ❖ Update members on what St. Mark's happenings
- ❖ To encourage them to attend church and
- ❖ To say a prayer with them

The information and prayer would be provided to each Call Committee member each month. I am looking for 4-5 people who like to talk on the phone to help with this committee! It probably would take about an hour of your time each month. Please contact Lori Whitehead at 586-206-9470 if you are interested in helping.

OPEN POSITIONS ON BOARDS: As we prepare for a dual parish Pastor, we now realize that we need to shore up our boards to assist the incoming Pastor. St. Mark's has some vacancies on the following boards that need to be filled ASAP:

- ✚ Board of Elders (By-laws state male only) 2 open positions.
- ✚ Board of Properties (anyone can fill) 2 open positions.
- ✚ Board of Parish Fellowship (anyone can fill) 2 open positions.
- ✚ Board of Family and Youth (anyone can fill) 2 open positions

Please prayerfully consider filling one (or more than one if you so desire) so we can continue to strengthen each other and assist God in building up his Church. If you can help please fill out the enclosed sheet and return it in a white slotted box located in the back of the church.

We ask that you return the form by **March 17th**. Thank you.

Please join us for Holy Week Worship Services!

Throughout the season of Lent, we have been solemnly preparing our hearts and minds through meditation on God's Word, that we might celebrate with highest joy in the death and resurrection of Jesus -- the culminating moment of our salvation. In March, we will reach the fulfillment of this season of preparation as we enter into Holy week. During this week, we will have several special services.

First, on **Sunday, March 24**, we will observe **Palm/Passion Sunday**. On this day, we remember our Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, when He rode on a donkey into the city while the crowd laid palm branches on the road before Him. The service on this day will be held at the normal time, 9:30 a.m., and will include a reading of the Passion account, which tells the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

Then, on **Thursday, March 28**, we will observe **Maundy Thursday**. On this day, we remember our Lord's Institution of Holy Communion on the night of His betrayal. The Service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end with the traditional stripping of the Altar.

On **Friday, March 29**, we will observe **Good Friday**. On this day, we remember our Lord's crucifixion. The service on this night will be the service of Tenebrae Vespers (Service of Darkness) and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Then, on **Sunday, March 31**, we will celebrate **Easter Sunday**, as we remember and rejoice in our Lord's resurrection from the dead. Our service on Easter Sunday will be held at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by a Potluck breakfast and children's egg hunt. Planning to attend? Please Sign-up on one of the easels which are located in the lobby located outside sanctuary door, or by entrance located near the Church office.

We hope you will join us for these special service! And be sure to invite your friends and family as well!

VOLUNTEERS Needed to help put pre-wrapped Candy in the plastic eggs. We will meet up on March 23rd at 10:00 am at the Church. Please contact Debbie LoCascio if you have any questions. Mark your Calendars!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Easter Potluck Breakfast with Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 31st. Sign-Up sheet is posted outside the Sanctuary doors and by the Church office entry.

PLEASE NOTE: PRE-WRAPPED CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED, and appreciated, for the Easter Egg Hunt. We need to have these donations as soon as possible so they can be placed in the plastic eggs. Thank you.

CALLING ALL BOOK READERS: I like to read a lot and have a bunch of books that I have already read sitting in my basement. I was thinking that other St. Mark's people may be readers too so why not do a book exchange!! If you are interested or need help bringing your books to St. Mark's, please contact Lori Whitehead at 586-206-9470. Also, please remember we are Christians when selecting the fiction books.

BOARD OF PROPERTIES' REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SHEET: St. Mark's Board of Properties now has a sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office where you can list projects that you see around church that need to be completed. See a light bulb that's out? List it on the sheet. See something that's broken? List it on the sheet. Please help the board discover repairs that need to be fixed by listing them on this sheet. Thank you in advance for your help!

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](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards) 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!

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.**

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.

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.

LWML INVITATION FOR MEN AND WOMEN: April 1, 2024, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Presentation on the Kolkata India Mission Trip: How God was active on the trip along with back stories from behind the scenes. Given by Mrs. Tracy Riggs and her team.

Location: ST. MATTHEW’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2040 S. Commerce Rd.

Walled Lake, MI 48390

YOU’RE INVITED! ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORTHVILLE is hosting its annual auction, A Storybook Gala, on **April 13** at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Tickets are \$65/person or \$600/table for 10. The evening will include a live and silent auction, wine pull fundraiser, plated dinner, and beer/wine bar. Tickets can be purchased at: stpaulnorthville.org/auction

If you can't attend but still want to support the school, consider making a monetary donation, donating new items, or becoming a sponsor. For more information, contact the school office (248) 349-3146 / school@stpaulnorthville.org



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister
Altar Guild
Elder on Duty
Greeters
Offering Counters
Organist
Usher

Pastor Terry Nelson, *Emeritus*
Cathy Fitzgerald/Gail Fitzgerald
Darryl Swainson
Tom & Debbie LoCascio
Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead
Rob Wheeler
Matt Maier