

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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## Sexagesima

23 February A✠D 2025

*Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Sexagesima Sunday. On this day, we focus especially on the Word of God, considering both its divine power as well as the eternal blessing it brings in Christ to those who believe. As we hear that Word this morning, we rejoice to know that it is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12), that it never returns to God empty (Isaiah 55:11), and that, like a seed sown into good soil, it will produce “a hundredfold” in the upright heart (Luke 8:15).

If you are a VISITOR here, 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.

The Right of Reception into membership of the congregation we observe today for Kathy Wong. We rejoice with our sister in Christ and pray the richest benediction of our Heavenly Father upon her by the Holy Spirit as she joins us in the love and fellowship and service of our Savior.

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.

## 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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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: 908 Lord, Open Now my Heart to Hear

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your  
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants  
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the  
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -  
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and  
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or  
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.  
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.  
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952  
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug  
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Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Word

### Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 44:1–2, 7–8; antiphon: vv. 23, 25a, 26a*

- P** Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?  
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- C** For our soul is bowed down to the dust.  
Rise up; come to our help!
- P** O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us,  
what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:
- C** you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted;  
you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free.
- P** But you have saved us from our foes  
and have put to shame those who hate us.
- C** In God we have boasted continually,  
and we will give thanks to your name forever.

**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** Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord?  
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!
- C** For our soul is bowed down to the dust.  
Rise up; come to our help!

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*During Advent and Lent (including the “Gesima” Sundays), the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.*

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Isaiah 55:10–13

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you

shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 83:18, 13*

**P** [Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name is the LORD,  
are the Most High over all the earth.

**C** O my God, make them like whirling dust,  
like chaff before the wind.

### Epistle

*Hebrews 4:9–13*

<sup>9</sup>So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup>for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup>Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Stand

### Tract

*Psalm 60:1–2, 5*

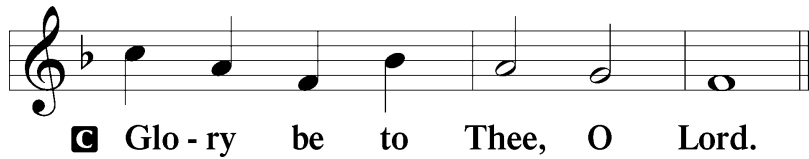
*(During Lent, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is used instead.)*

**P** O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;  
you have been angry; oh, restore us.

**C** You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;  
repair its breaches, for it totters.

**P** That your beloved ones may be delivered,  
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

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



<sup>4</sup>When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ <sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

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



## Nicene Creed

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

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*



## Hymn of the Day: 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -  
2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry  
△ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -

vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face  
na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise  
creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,

To life e - ter - nal guide us, That we His sav - ing  
The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the  
Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,

health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure,  
earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;  
God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!

And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out  
Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and  
Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -

mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.  
nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.  
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

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### Sermon

### Offering

*During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.*

*Stand*  
**Offertory**

*Psalm 51:10–12*

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Sit*  
**Reception into Membership**

*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.

Lord of the harvest, we give thanks for all of Your tender mercies. Implant in us Your Holy Word, that in good and honest hearts we may ever keep it even as He, the Word of God in human flesh, proclaims it. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** God of glory, enrich Your ministers with the very love of Christ and minister to them, that with gladness they may serve the people of Your Church. Teach them the way of the cross and of self-sacrifice, that they would bear their burden faithfully and at last receive the crown of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, the seed of Your Word has found good soil among the hearts of each generation, from whom You have reaped a plentiful harvest according to Your

gracious will. Continue this sanctifying work in our hearts, that we may bear Your fruit in all that we think, say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Merciful God, increase the faith of Your Church in the Word, which comes from Your mouth. By her witness, enrich our land. Give us faithful rulers, increase virtue among us and grant Your Word free course to enliven faith in all places under heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Creator of all, You have seen fit to allow even the faithful to be hindered by the various trials and dangers of life [*including*\_\_\_\_\_]. Help Your suffering servants to join Your blessed apostle Paul and boast in their weaknesses, confident that Your strength will sustain them to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, by a word You created the heavens and earth to bear fruit under the cultivation of man. Receive our offerings given out of love for Christ who first loved us and bless us according to your gracious promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sown Your Holy Word among us. Prepare our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may diligently and reverently hear Your Word, keep it in good hearts, and bring forth fruit with patience; and that we may not incline to sin, but subdue it by Your power, and in all persecutions comfort ourselves with Your grace and continual help; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

## Collect

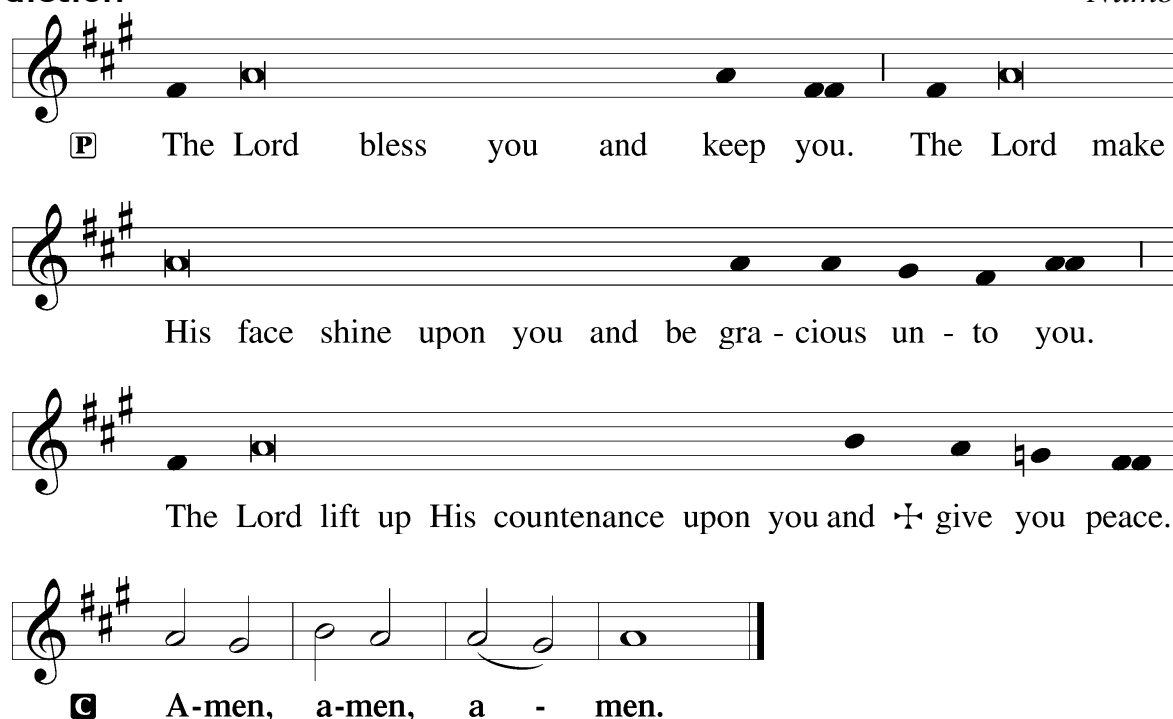
**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by

patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24–26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Hymn: 921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,  
The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -  
in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless-ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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## Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sun. 2/23**     **Sexsagesima**

- **Divine Service without communion** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Thu. 2/27**     **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m. Youth Room

**Sun. 3/02**     **Quinquagesima**

- **Divine Service with communion** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY** – All adults are welcome to join Pastor in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 a.m. this morning for Bible Study. We look forward to seeing you there!

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** provided to us courteous from The Lutheran Hour, have been printed up, and are found on the table in the rear of the church. You also can pick one up in the lobby on the table as you enter or exit the church from the parking lot side.

**THE PEOPLE OF ST. MARKS ARE INVITED TO PEACE LUTHERAN, AS THEY WILL BE HOSTING ASH WEDNESDAY (MARCH 5), AND LENT MID WEEK SERVICES.** They will also be having a meal before service at 6:00 pm, usually with a suggested donation of \$4.00, to cover the cost of the food and setting up. There will be a sign-up sheet at Peace if anyone is interested or let the office know if any might be interested. Service will be at 7:00 p.m.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MILFORD WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.** Great fun and awesome chili tasting in all past events, but wishes to make the event even better; they want to include YOU! All of the members of the Kensington Circuit are invited to join and participate as a chili chef or as a chili taster. Sign up, instructions and entry forms are found on the easel at the parking lot entrance next to the Church office. Their Address: Christ Lutheran Church 620 General Motors Rd, Milford, MI 48381

**REMINDER: IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!** On MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> you may need to reset your clocks! Any analog type clocks have to be set forward one hour before going to sleep. By doing this you will not be late for any activities that you have.

**ALL NATIONS CELEBRATION:** This inaugural All Nations Celebration will bring together sojourners and immigrants, congregations and ministry organizations for worship, learning, and networking. Attendees will be energized and enriched by this gathering as they experience the many different multiethnic ministries already serving in our district. Join us for worship, food, and time together as fellow sojourners in Christ Jesus!

**St. Luke Lutheran Church - 5589 Van Atta Rd, Haslett MI 48840**

**March 15, 2025 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Cost is Free.

Register on line: [www.michigandistrict.org/allnations25](http://www.michigandistrict.org/allnations25)

**LADIES' QUILTING GROUP SEEKING SHEETS & BLANKETS** – St. Mark's Missionary League continues to seek donations of sheets and blankets to be used to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have any gently-used sheets or blankets that you are no longer using, please consider donating them to this cause! Items can be left in the Quilt Donations Box located next to church office.

**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. 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 ¼" of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

**THE FATHER'S HANDS FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING OUR FOOD PANTRY** is in dire need of the following items:

**The food locker needs:** Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pasta mac and cheese boxes, tuna, canned chicken or any canned meat, protein beans, canned pasta dinners, Rice, canned vegetables, both starchy and non-starchy, canned or dried fruit, soups, Raman noodles, protein bars, dried potatoes

**For large family supplement bags:** large cans of canned meat, dried milk, fruits and veggies, large family dried soups, large family sized baked beans, large family sized spaghetti sauce, large family sized spaghetti noodles; family sized shampoo and conditioner

**For personal bags:** toilet paper, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, Diapers - size 4,5 & 6 and newborns. And wipes

We are open for drop off on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-4:30 and Wednesdays from Noon - 5pm. We greatly appreciate any and all donations. Address:  
1133 Joslyn Ave, Pontiac, MI 48340



### **SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Frank Pies
Altar Guild	Karen Kaufman & Sandy Krus
Elder on Duty	None
Greeter(s)	Gail Fitzgerald
Offering Counters	Mary Ann Lockwood & Jean Swainson
Organists	Rob Wheeler
Usher	Matt Maier



### **SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS NEXT WEEK**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Terry Nelson
Altar Guild	Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald
Elder on Duty	Darryl Swainson
Greeter(s)	Gail Fitzgerald
Offering Counters	Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead
Organists	Rob Wheeler
Usher	Tom Kaufman