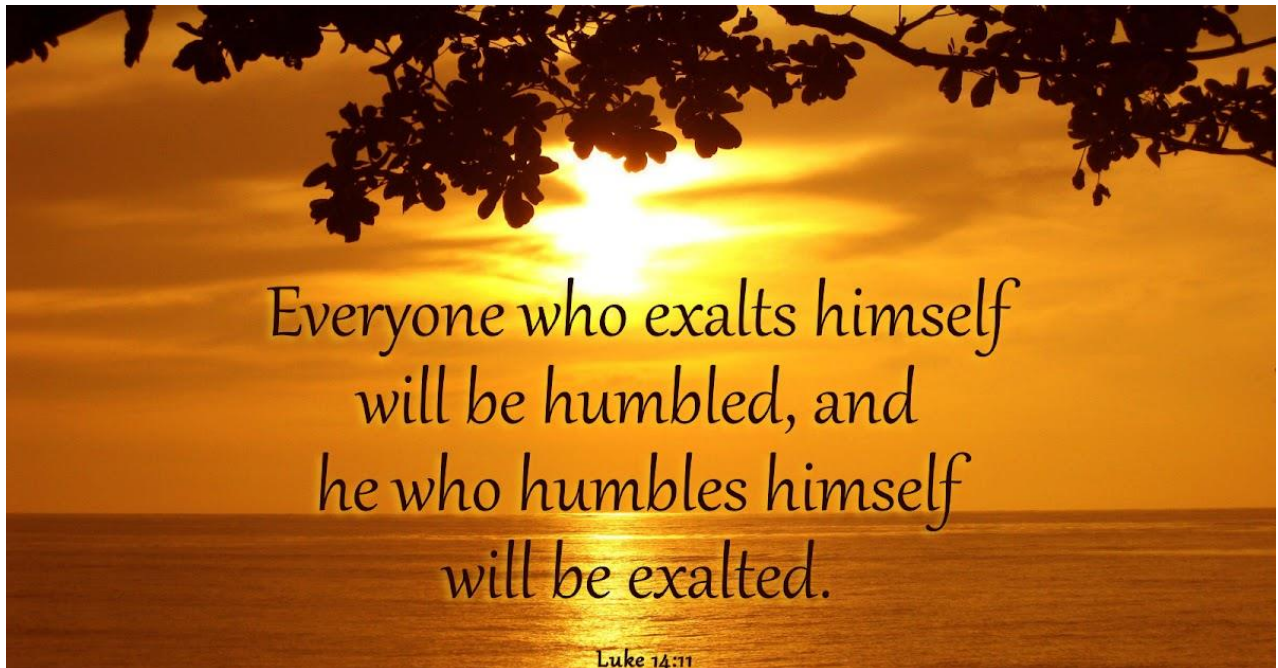


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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West Bloomfield, MI 48324
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The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

1 October A✠D 2023

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider how we should live together as the Church, especially as we come together at the Feast of the Lord. Because of our sin, we are tempted to exalt ourselves over others. However, today we remember the humility of Christ, who took on the form of a servant for us. Following Him, we too should humble ourselves before others, trusting God to exalt us as He sees fit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LWML SUNDAY 2023

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman's identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus' name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings.

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: 616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, 1969

Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742

Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 119:1–2, 5–6; antiphon: vv. 137, 124

P Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are your just decrees.

C Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,
and teach me your statutes.

P Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!

C Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart.

P Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

C Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

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 Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are your just decrees.

C Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,
and teach me your statutes.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25:6–14

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.
¹¹A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
¹²Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold
is a wise reprover to a listening ear.
¹³Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
is a faithful messenger to those who send him;
he refreshes the soul of his masters.
¹⁴Like clouds and wind without rain
is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 33:12, 6

P Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

C By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:1–6

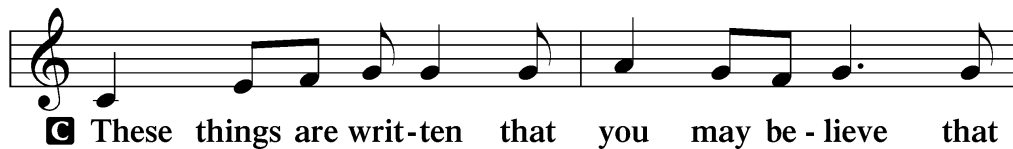
¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1-11

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

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

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

Hymn of the Day: 696 O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 What - ev - er You com-mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
 Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
 And let me find good friends For coun-sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
 That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
 But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
 Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con-science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
 The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
 Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
 And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5 Let me depart this life
 Confiding in my Savior;
 By grace receive my soul
 That it may live forever;
 And let my body have
 A quiet resting place
 Within a Christian grave;
 And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day
 When all the dead are waking,
 Stretch out Your mighty hand,
 My deathly slumber breaking.
 Then let me hear Your voice,
 Redeem this earthly frame,
 And bid me to rejoice
 With those who love Your
 name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 God, Author of all concord, You will that Your people be one. Knit together Your Holy Church, that according to their vocations, they may join in humble service to the world and jubilant praise of You, the only God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Teach us, O Lord, the right and blessed use of Your holy day: to take our rest and give rest to others, and above all to gain rest for our souls through the ministry of Your Son in His Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, bless all Christian homes with Your presence. Make them places of peace and refuge in Christ. Strengthen all married couples, that their union as husband and wife might be a reflection of Christ and His Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Almighty God, uphold Joseph, our president; Gretchen, our governor; and all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people, as found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially to protect the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Father in heaven, look in kindness upon those who have been humbled by the troubles of this life [*especially* _____]. Lift them up in healing, and renew their strength to serve You in what You have called them to do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Divine Master, You graciously invite us to join You in the feast of this Sacrament. Grant that we come taking the lowest place in repentance and pleading Your mercy, that our hearts may be lifted up to the honor of receiving Christ's very body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** O Lord, bless all who serve as part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Grant them various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit and the ability to accomplish the work You would have them do. Continue to give them the grace to use these gifts always to Your honor and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

Offering

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

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

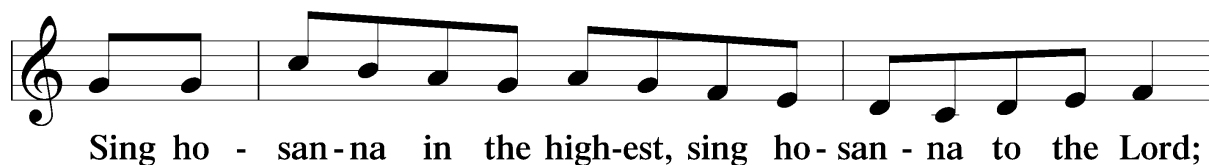
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Refrain
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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

Closing Hymn: 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en

am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,

sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;

Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence

hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,

Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 10/1 The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding
LWML SUNDAY
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Tue. 10/3 Board of Elders' Meeting** 7:00 p.m., Library
- Thu. 10/5 Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sun. 10/8 The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Terry Nelson presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AFTER CHURCH – All are invited to join Pastor Zwonitzer in the basement Fellowship Hall directly after church (10:45 a.m.) for Adult Bible Study. Pastor will be teaching on the 3 scripture lessons for today, and snacks will be available too. Please come and delve deeper into today's Bible readings!

TODAY WE CELEBRATE LWML SUNDAY – This morning, we are celebrating Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday! The power of God is evident in the dimes, quarters, and dollars you put in the LWML Mite Boxes (located on the book shelf at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs). Thank you! Our new Lutheran Women in Mission Statement reads — "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others." The Holy Spirit has been doing this for 80 years through the LWML! This year's Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday theme is "The King is Coming" based on Psalm 24: 7–10. Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life! We glorify God by sharing His love with others. Your generous mite offering donations enable us to share the Gospel throughout the world. Thank you for supporting the LWML!

LATEST CALL COMMITTEE NEWS – On Tuesday, September 19, St. Mark's Congregational Mission and Ministry Facilitator from the Michigan District, Pastor Meckes, presented the results of the 3 surveys our congregation completed over the summer. We are now moving on to Step 7 of the Call Process: nomination of pastors who might be interested in a Call to St. Mark's. Nomination forms are now located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, along with a box where you can place your completed forms. **Nominations will only be accepted from September 24 – October 22!** Members of the congregation who wish to suggest names of pastors to be considered for our Call list are asked to complete this form. Try to include as much information about the pastoral nominee as possible. When the form is completed, it will be forwarded to District President David A. Davis. ***Please include your name at the bottom of the form; otherwise, it cannot be recognized as valid.*** Any questions regarding the Call process can be directed to Darryl Swainson, Chairman.

WE'RE ACCEPTING 2024 PLEDGE FORMS – As the church council is working to prepare our yearly budget for 2024, we are asking the congregation to participate in a pledge drive for 2024. Please note: these pledges will only be used for reference as we are going to try and set our 2024 budget based on what St. Marks will receive in offerings. As we are in vacancy now, we especially need as accurate of information as possible because the exact amount of money needed for a new pastor is still unknown at this time. The 2023 budget was set approximately at \$161,000 and we are estimating yearly donations will be around \$135,000 which is almost \$26,000 short. Due to this mismatch, we are asking for your help to participate in the pledge drive for 2024 so that the council can accurately prepare our budget. Please note that St. Mark's will need approximately \$95,000 in 2024 to keep the building running and support the daily needs of our congregation. This number does not include a full-time pastor's salary or benefits. With this stated, we ask for you to prayerfully consider what your 2024 pledge will be and provide it by **Sunday October 8** as the council will be meeting the following week for our first round of the 2024 budget. **Pledge Forms are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. When completed, they can be placed in the corresponding box on the table there.**

FALL CLEAN-UP ON OCTOBER 15 - Just like our homes, St. Mark's Church building needs maintenance and cleaning in the spring and fall. Therefore, there will be a Church Clean-Up event here on **Sunday, October 15**, directly following the Divine Service. Can we count on you to help? Be sure to bring work clothes with you to church that morning along with work gloves and any tools you'd like to bring. Lunch will be provided to all participants. A list of chores will be placed on the table in the entrance lobby soon.

CHURCH PLANNING MEETING ON OCTOBER 21 – Calling all church leaders! Please plan to gathering together for our Annual Church Planning Meeting on **Saturday, October 21** from 9:00 a.m. until Noon! This is where we will plan church events for 2024. Essential participants include: all officers, and all chairmen and members of each of these church boards: Elders, Family & Youth, Gospel Outreach, Human Care, LWML, Parish Fellowship, & Properties. It's very important that all church leaders participate, if possible! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

REFORMATION DAY AND FALL HARVEST POTLUCK - On **Sunday, October 29**, the Church will observe Reformation Day. On this day, we celebrate what the Lord did through Martin Luther and the other Reformers over five centuries ago. By their day, the Roman Catholic Church had fallen into many abuses and errors which obscured and denied the salvation of Christ. However, at the right time the Lord revealed to Martin Luther the Truth of the Gospel, and then worked through him to restore the proclamation of that Truth to the Church—a blessing which we still enjoy today as we preach that we are saved by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, as taught in Scripture Alone. Please join us for worship as we celebrate this most important and joyous day **at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to wear red to church that day in celebration. Following the service, we will be holding our Annual Fall Harvest Potluck!** A sign-up sheet will be posted soon where you can list the dish you'll be bringing and the number of people coming with you. Please join us on this special day!

ACCEPTING 2024 OFFICER/BOARD NOMINATIONS - Later in October, we will be accepting nominations for our 2024 elected and non-elected church positions. The elected positions are for a term of 3 years. The non-elected positions aren't for any specific length of time, so you can help for as long as you'd like. Watch for a list of open positions to appear in upcoming Sunday bulletins along with nomination forms that will be kept on the table at the back of the sanctuary. You can nominate yourself or someone else! Please consider serving the Lord in this very special way.

JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2023! For us Christians, there is no greater joy than meditating on the Holy Scriptures, for there God proclaims to us the Truth of Christ, so that in Him we might have life! With this in mind, the Board of Elders invites you to join in with other congregations in our Circuit by reading through the entire Bible in 2023. You can pick up at any time. **Please visit crafteddaily.com for the reading plan.**

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please leave ¼" of the paper around the stamp.

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.

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

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

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

For Larger families they need:

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

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

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

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



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

Tom LoCascio