

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Septuagesima

28 January A✠D 2024

Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe Septuagesima Sunday. On this day, as we begin our preparations for Lent, we consider the struggles of the Christian life and the prize that awaits us at the end. Indeed, in this world we Christians will face many difficulties. However, God promises us believers that when our time on earth is done, we will inherit eternal life through faith in Christ. Therefore, we bear all the burdens of this present life with confidence and with joy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P 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.

Hymn of Invocation: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

Stanzas 1 - 5



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -
 5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our
 spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's
 hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 mir - ror sires To bring the in - bred
 poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our
 Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.
 ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 18:1–2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5–6a

- P** The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- C** **In my distress I called upon the LORD.**
From his temple he heard my voice.
- P** I love you, O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.
- C** **For you save a humble people,**
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
- P** [You have] equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
- C** **For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,**
and sing to your name.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** The cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- C** **In my distress I called upon the LORD.**
From his temple he heard my voice.

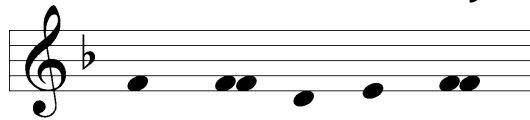
Kyrie

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 Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Exodus 17:1–7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 9:9–10, 18–19a

- P** The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
- C** And those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.
- P** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.
- C** Arise, O LORD!
Let not man prevail.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

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

Stand Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

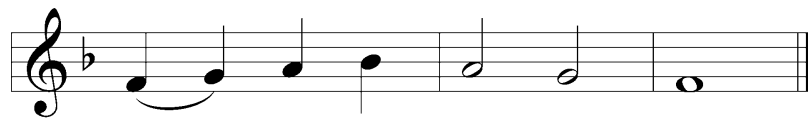


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the

vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent

whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -

from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.
Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Sit

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.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Church, that all who have been called into our Father's vineyard would recognize their unworthiness for such a gracious gift, rejoice in the salvation they have in Christ and remain steadfast in the Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church of God, built on Christ and ordered according to His will, that her pastors may know His Holy Word thoroughly, and her people wait patiently on His heavenly provision, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our congregation, that we would love one another as Christ has loved us, give generously in support of His mission here and abroad, pray for our enemies, put away all earthly grumbling, and bask in the gracious providence of God. And for our Call Committee, that they would be led by the Holy Spirit to find the pastor that the Lord wills for us to have, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the home, that God would work graciously through the teaching and example of fathers and mothers to preserve the faith of children and help them grow in Christ until life's end, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the civil authorities, whom God has established on earth to be a blessing, not a burden, that He would enable them to serve with wisdom and integrity, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That He who has made our way blameless and, in His Word, equipped us for the labor of our callings may now satisfy our hunger and thirst in His precious Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

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.

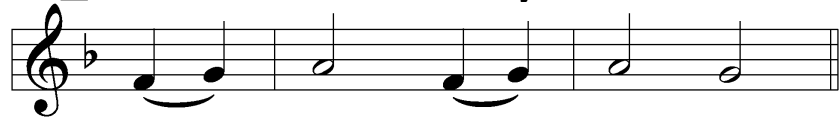
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



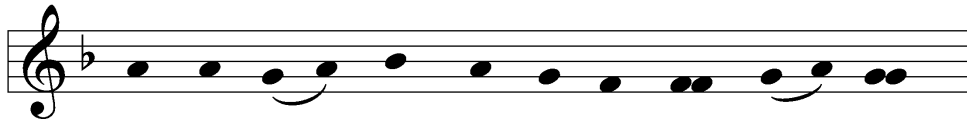
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

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

John 20:19



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 785 We Praise You, O God



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

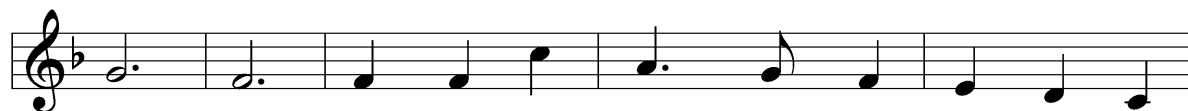
Tune: Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

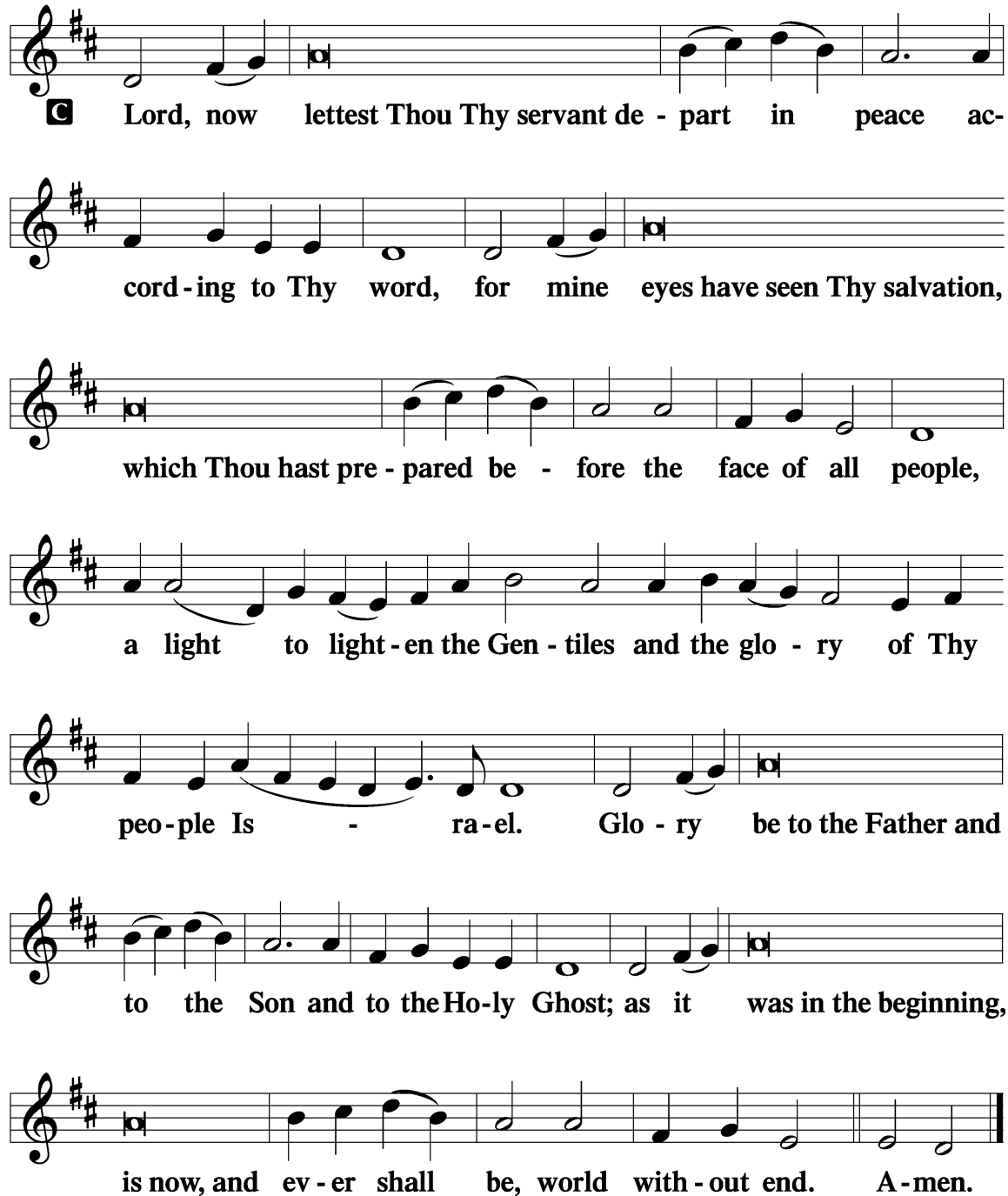
Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuernten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

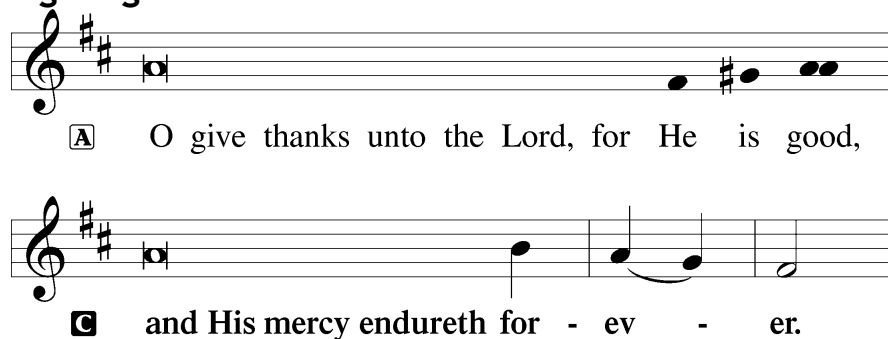
Luke 2:29–32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1



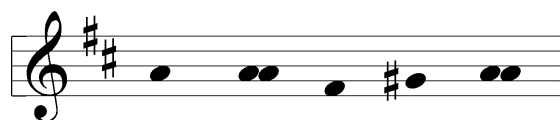
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



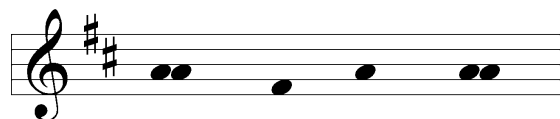
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



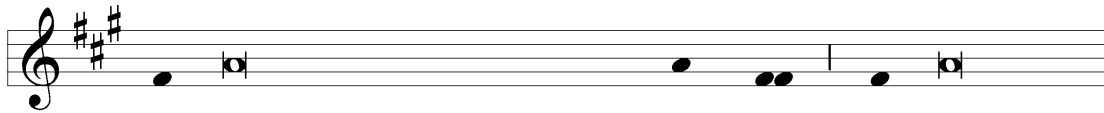
A Bless we the Lord.



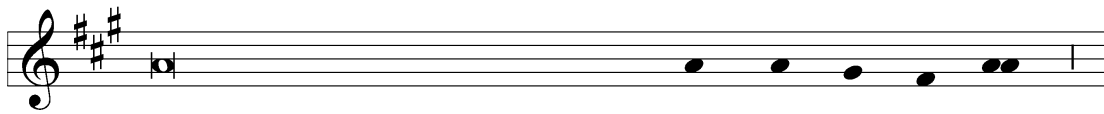
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

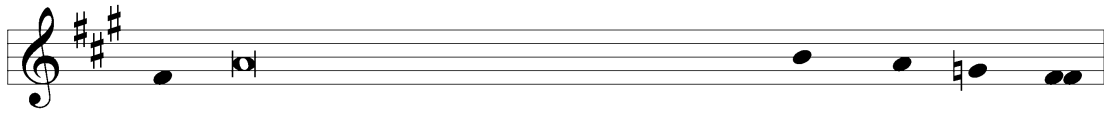
Numbers 6:24–26



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.

The Closing Hymn can be found on the next page.

Closing Hymn: 555 Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Stanzas 6-10

6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-
 7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be
 8 The Law re - veals the guilt of sin And makes us con-science-
 9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in Him un-
 △ 10 All bless-ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and
 va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And
 bro - ken; Your call rings out, “Come un - to Me!” No
 strick - en; But then the Gos - pel en - ters in The
 ceas - ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With
 Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All
 build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear
 false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your
 sin - ful soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust
 love and hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can
 glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in
 Lord, I plead, Your death is now my
 pre - cious name, My faith can - not be
 Christ, and live; The Law no peace can
 jus - ti - fy; Works serve our neigh - bor
 heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your
 life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.
 put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.
 ev - er give, No com - fort and no bless - ing.
 and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.
 sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/28** **Septuagesima**
Pastor Rod Zwonitzer presiding
- **The Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
 - **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m.
- Thu. 2/1** **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room
- Sat. 2/3** **Trivia Night** 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Faith Lutheran, Highland
- Sun. 2/4** **Sexagesima**
Pastor Terry Nelson 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 RESUMES ON FEBRUARY 1 – 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 starting this **Thursday, February 1** at 10:00 a.m. (and continuing each Thursday thereafter) 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 this Thursday, or any Thursday!

FAITH LUTHERAN, HIGHLAND, INVITES ALL TO TRIVIA NIGHT - Faith Lutheran Church located at 3501 E. Highland Road in Highland is sponsoring another Trivia Night on **Saturday, February 3**, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. All sister congregations are invited, and feel free to invite a friend or some family members too! The cost is \$50.00 for a table of 6 or \$10.00 per person. There is a cash prize for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place and a 50/50 Raffle. Start forming your teams now, or sign up individually and join a table when you arrive at the event. There will be pop & water to drink & snacks on the table, and we will take a break halfway through to have pizza, salad & cookies. To sign up for this event, please call the Faith Lutheran Church office at 248-887-5550. They would love to have you join them!

ASH WEDNESDAY & MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES – We are happy to report that St. Mark's WILL be hosting its annual Ash Wednesday Divine Service here on **Wednesday, February 14** at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Pies will be our presiding minister that evening and he will be offering the Imposition of Ashes to those who wish to receive them. The subsequent midweek Lenten services will be held at our 3 sister churches—Peace Waterford, Faith Highland, and Christ Milford—at 7:00 p.m. The pastors of those congregations will be rotating in a round-robin style and parishioners will be encouraged to select ONE location to attend so that they get to see/hear all 3 pastors preach over the 5 week Lenten period. Please make plans now to attend all of these Lenten worship services!

LENTEN COIN HOLDERS - The season of Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Once again, we will be receiving cash donations via our Lenten Coin Folders that will be located on the table in the entryway soon. 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. How do the folders work? Just place one quarter each day during Lent into the corresponding slot (excluding Sundays, which are celebrated as “mini Easters” and are IN Lent, but not OF Lent), and by Easter Sunday, your holder will be full and equal \$10! Then, you can place your full folder into any offering plate on Easter Sunday or before. Collecting quarters is an easy and fun activity to do, especially for kids!

PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE - On Wednesday, January 17, St. Mark's Call Committee met with Pastor Meckes from the Michigan District LCMS to discuss the next steps to be taken to find a possible dual parish pastor. Pastor Meckes plans to check with the LCMS' English District to discuss the possibility of us looking at area English District churches too. This would expand our LCMS congregation pastoral search options. In the meantime, the committee will be getting together soon to discuss what St. Mark's needs would be for a dual parish pastor.

LENTEN DEVOTION BOOKS - As you prepare for Lent, we hope you will grab a copy of the Lenten Devotional Booklets provided to us by Lutheran Hour Ministries that will be located on the table at the rear of the sanctuary soon. These booklets offer scripture readings and devotions for each day during Lent. They make for excellent reading during this penitential season! We thank Lutheran Hour Ministries for making the booklets available to us free of charge, and hope they will enhance your Lenten studies.

GREETING CARD DONATIONS NEEDED - St. Mark's Board of Human Care has a Greeting Card Ministry that they would like to expand! This past year they have taken 5 batches of cards to MediLodge in Milford, where their staff give them to their residents who they feel can benefit from a friendly greeting. If you have any cards, either blank inside, Christmas, Easter, Valentine, 4th of July, etc... and especially general “thinking of you” type, and would like to donate them, there is now a box on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can put them. Also, any stickers or cut outs that can be used to decorate blank cards would be very useful. These cards can be secular or religious. And if you would be interested in helping make cards, or have suggestions of places or individuals who would like an occasional card from St. Mark's, please let the board know!! Any questions can be directed to Leslie Oehring.

2023 OFFERING STATEMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE - 2023 offering statements for our church members are now located in your member mailboxes. Please take these home at your earliest convenience. The non-church-member statements were mailed out on January 27. Any questions regarding the annual statements can be directed to St. Mark's Finance Secretary, Lori Whitehead.

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

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing "Joe Boway" on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark's), or visiting the St. Mark's website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

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

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



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Rod Zwonitzer
Emeritus

Altar Guild (Jan.)

Barb Allen

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Offering Counters (Jan.)

Barbara Jewell & TBD

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

John Reardon