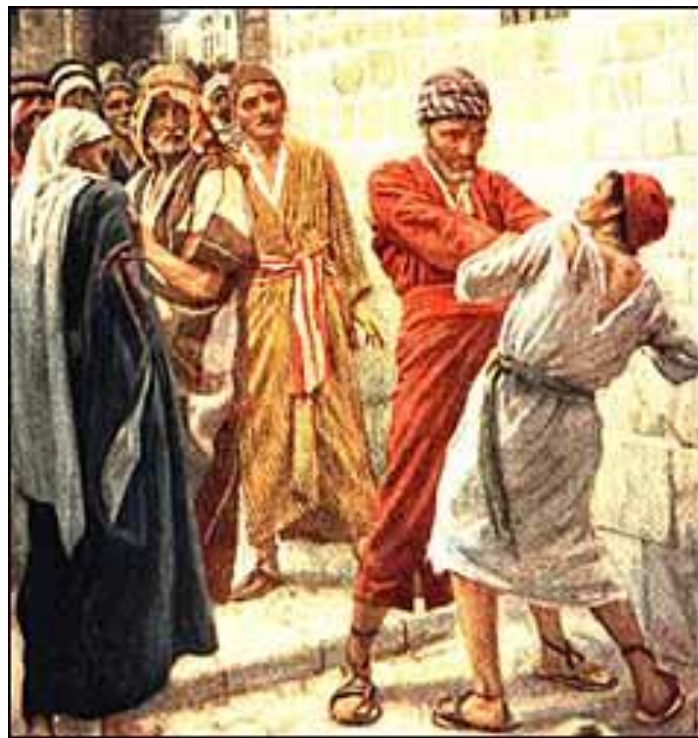


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

12 November A.D. 2023

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider the forgiveness that God freely offers to us in Christ and how that forgiveness changes the way we Christians deal with others when they sin against us. When we recognize the true greatness of God's forgiveness, we no longer can refuse forgiveness to others. Rather, it is now our duty, out of a grateful heart, to forgive them as we ourselves have been forgiven.

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.

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

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

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

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

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

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P 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: 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11; antiphon: Jeremiah 29:11a, 12

- P** I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,
plans for wholeness and not for evil.
- C** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,
and I will hear you.
- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

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** I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,
plans for wholeness and not for evil.
- C** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,
and I will hear you.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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



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



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



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

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.

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:6–8

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 44:7–8

P 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.

Epistle

Philippians 1:3–11

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand
Alleluia and Verse



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



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



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



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers,

until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

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

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

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith in the plans God has set for us, that we may leave the future to His care and walk wisely in His heavenly way while yet on earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's blessing upon His pastors as they lead steadfast and holy lives, that each in his own vocation may follow after them in the way of Christ, the Savior, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For St. Mark's Call Committee and this congregation, that God would grant to them the guidance of His Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all in authority over us, that God would supply them with His blessing; for areas of the world that are at war, that God would defeat the plans of those who stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to His will, end all conflicts in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For a right heart that treasures the Lord's Word above money, that we may render both our taxes and our tithes with thanksgiving as citizens of earth and heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the needy, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving for God's saints, whom He has held out for us as icons and examples, that as true citizens of heaven with them, we may increase in faith, love and hope, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Heavenly Father, that which our flesh desires cannot compare with Your gift of wisdom. Preserve us from treasuring the jewels and riches of this life. Instead, let us place our trust in the priceless treasure of Your Son, even Jesus Christ, 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

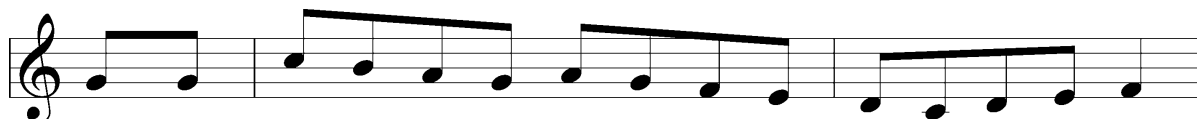
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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: 559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion



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



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



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



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

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

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

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
 5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
 keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
 a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
 glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
 His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
 And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
 Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
 A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
 of His might All things are just and good and right:
 praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
 ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
 from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4):
 tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain

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 lead 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

Psalms 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: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 11/12** **Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Thu. 11/16** **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room
- Fri. 11/18** **Deadline to submit December's newsletter articles**
- Sun. 11/19** **Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Frank Pies presiding
Baptisms: Dillon & Riley O'Brien
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING – All are welcome and encouraged to join Pastor Zwonitzer in the Fellowship Hall after church this morning for Adult Bible Study. Pastor will be teaching on the 3 scripture readings from today's worship service. Snacks, coffee and juice will also be available. Start your week off right by delving deeper into God's Word!

ACCEPTING 2024 OFFICER/BOARD NOMINATIONS - We are now 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. We are accepting nominations for the positions of:

- President
- Human Resources Coordinator
- Public Relations/Advertising Coordinator
- Board of Gospel Outreach
- Board of Parish Fellowship
- Board of Family & Youth
- Board of Properties

We could also use more non-elected people to serve as: Sunday morning greeters, on the Altar Guild, as offering counters, and also ushers. You can nominate yourself or someone else! **Nomination forms are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary.** When completed, feel free to fold in half and place into the offering plate **no later than TODAY.**

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS – The Call Committee is continuing to look into all pastoral options that might be available, and affordable, for St. Mark's next pastor. A few members of our congregation have submitted names of possible pastors, and these have been forwarded to the Michigan District. At this time, the Call Committee has concluded Step 7 in the Call Process. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee! It is only by the guidance of the Holy Spirit that they will be led to help the congregation find our next shepherd! Continue to watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for additional updates.

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING DAY AT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, HARTLAND - Because St. Mark's is still in a pastoral vacancy, we will not be having our traditional Thanksgiving Eve worship service this year. However, we invite and encourage you to attend the National Day of Thanksgiving worship service at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church **on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 23 at 10:00 a.m. instead.** Our Savior is located at 13667 W. Highland Road in Hartland, and Pastor Chris Thoma will be presiding. Go, and give thanks to the Lord for all that he has blessed you with during this past year!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING – Please be aware that St. Mark's Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, **November 23 and 24.** The office will re-open on Monday, November 26.

DECORATE ST. MARK'S FOR CHRISTMAS - Calling all church members! If you are going to be in town for Thanksgiving weekend, we could use your help to decorate St. Mark's for Christmas on **Saturday, November 25** starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be wreaths to hang (indoor and outdoor), our large Christmas tree to put up and decorate, a nativity set to put together, and more! If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated! We hope to see you there!

GREETING CARD DONATIONS NEEDED - St. Mark's Board of Human Care has a Greeting Card Ministry that we would like to expand! This past year we 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 us know!! If you would like more information, please call Leslie Oehring. Thank you for your help, it is very much appreciated!

WE ARE SEEKING A CHURCH SECRETARY - Our long-time Office Manager, Debbie LoCascio, will be retiring in mid-March of 2024. We are currently starting a search to hire a secretary to replace her. Duties will include sorting mail, answering the phones, creating publications (weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters) and other miscellaneous duties. Training for the position will take place part-time (days/times are flexible) between now and mid-March. We're not sure yet if the new position will be part-time or full-time, but if you're interested, or know anyone who might be interested, please talk to either Trent Johnson or Tom LoCascio.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON - Once again this year, St. Mark's will be working with the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford to Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. Watch future bulletins later in November for details on how this will work, and also whether or not we will, once again, be a drop-off center for other area churches who are participating in the program. Any questions on the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program can be directed to Karen Kaufman.

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!

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.

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.**

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.

CHRIST LUTHERAN, MILFORD, IS SEEKING TEACHER ASSISTANTS – Christ Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten is looking for Teacher Assistants to work from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. every Thursday. They are also seeking a Teacher Assistant to work from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. as a Substitute Teacher on Mondays – Fridays. If you might be interested in becoming part of their staff, please contact Ruth Carlton at (248) 496 – 5994.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Paula Albert & Jennie Kaufman

Worship Assistant

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Ellen Rentola

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

John Reardon