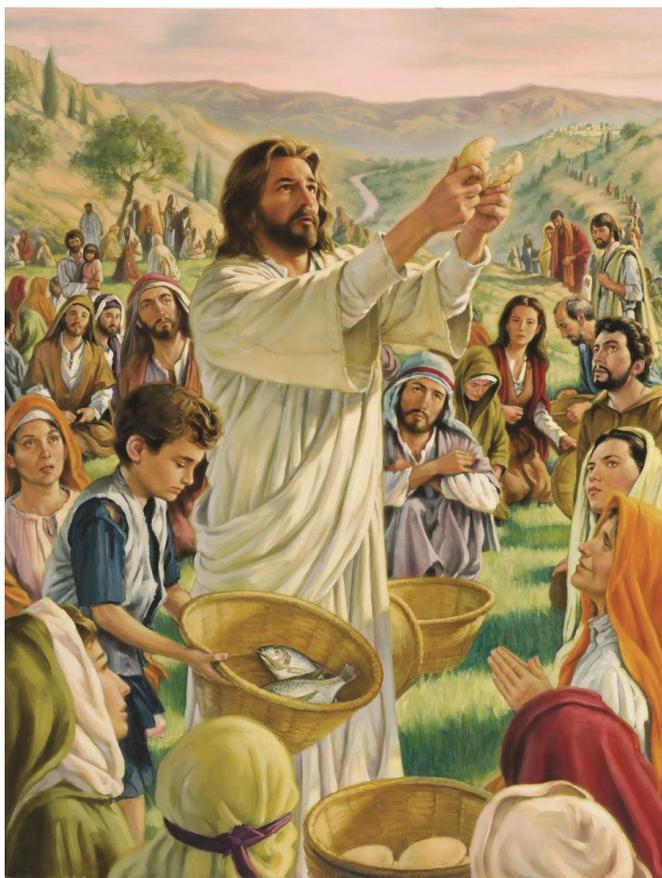


ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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West Bloomfield, MI 48324
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The Fourth Sunday in Lent

27 March A✠D 2022

Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Fourth Sunday in Lent. On this day, we consider how Jesus feeds our souls through His Word and Sacraments. Apart from Christ, we are left empty, unfulfilled, and lost. However, Jesus comes to us in mercy, having sacrificed Himself for us on the cross, to bring us salvation in Word and Sacrament. In this way, Jesus feeds us with true spiritual food, and sends us out day-by-day satisfied, filled, and truly alive.

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

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

Kneel/Stand

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

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

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

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

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 122:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a

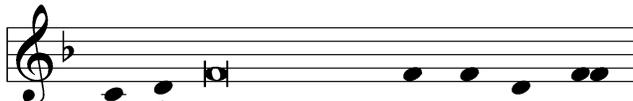
- P** Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
- C** **that you may drink deeply with delight**
From her glorious abundance.
- P** I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- C** **Our feet have been standing**
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- P** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May they be secure who love you!
- C** **For my brothers and companions’ sake**
I will say, “Peace be within you!”

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** Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
- C** **that you may drink deeply with delight**
From her glorious abundance.

Kyrie

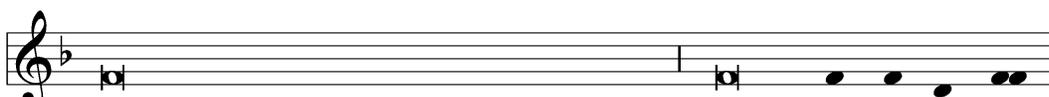
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



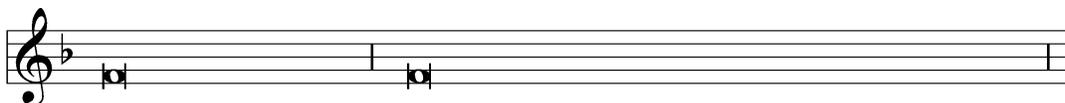
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

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 al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:8–13

⁸Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages,

⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

¹¹And I will make all my mountains a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.

¹²Behold, these shall come from afar,
and behold, these from the north and from the west,

and these from the land of Syene.”
¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
for the LORD has comforted his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 122:1, 7

P I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

C Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!

Second Reading

Acts 2:41–47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 125:1–2, 5b

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

P Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!

Holy Gospel

John 6:1–15

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;
 Thou canst not deceive me,
 Thine appeal is vain.
 Sin that once did blind me,
 Get thee far behind me,
 Come not forth again.
 Past thy hour,
 O pride and pow'r;
 Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
 Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!
 For the Lord of gladness,
 Jesus, enters in.
 Those who love the Father,
 Though the storms may gather,
 Still have peace within.
 Yea, whate'er
 I here must bear,
 Thou art still my purest pleasure,
 Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

(The Apostles' Creed is used during Lent.)

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

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

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

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For ears to hear God's Word, for contentment with what He provides and for cheerful hearts to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving, that we would neither grumble against His goodness nor refuse to heed His commands, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Christian Church, especially Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia, that the Lord would strengthen and preserve His people in devotion to the apostles' doctrine, the unity of the faith, His Holy Sacrament and the prayers, that, in this life of faith, love may also grow and bear fruit among us, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For husbands, wives, children and all Christians, that we would be eager to hear the voice of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins and, in turn, speak the truth with our neighbors, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our nation and all in authority, that God would make them prudent and wise so that we might live in godly quietness, freely making known His message of reconciliation; and for peace in Ukraine and in all the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who call on God, our Shepherd, in their need, [*especially _____,*] that He would protect, comfort and guide them; that they would receive His healing and peace and so continue to serve Him with joy in this life; and that, finally, they would come to that good land in His eternal kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who commune this day, that as God provided food from heaven for Israel during their days of wandering, so He would give us also the true food of heaven, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, to sustain us in faith and hope during our days of pilgrimage until at last we behold His glory with our own eyes, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son multiplied bread and fish for thousands, showing Himself to be the Creator and Giver of every good gift. Multiply the gifts of body and soul You provide for us from Your gracious hand, and cause us to receive all Your benefits with thanksgiving, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

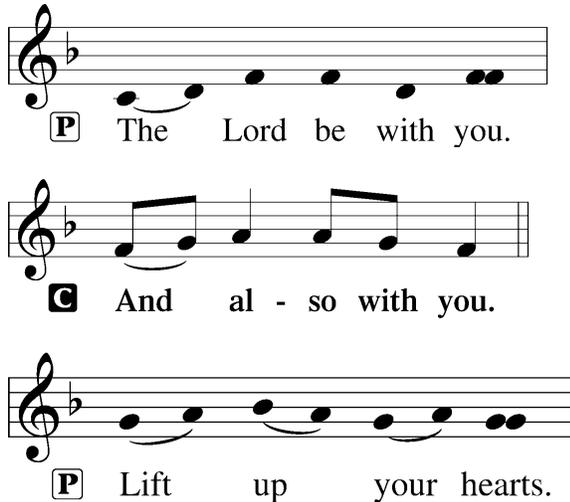


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

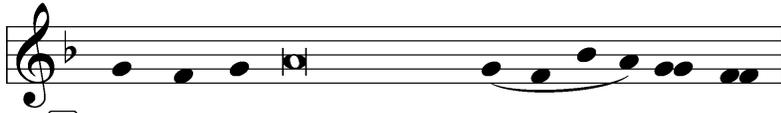
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



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



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



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

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

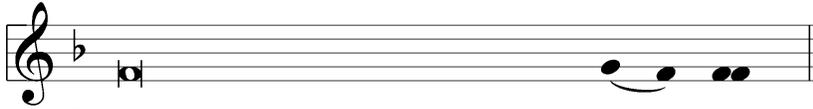
The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini

John 20:19



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace
 2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -
 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free
 4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin



pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,
 ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,
 re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight
 would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,



In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well
 Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,
 O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress



for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,
 ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,
 Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,
 this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,



Give me Your grace and mer - cy.
 To share Your cup of heal - ing.
 As - sured of Your full par - don.
 O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: Theütsch kirchen ampt, 1525, Strassburg

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 642 O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,



Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.
 through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

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

C A - men.

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 3/27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

- Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room
- Neighborhood Prayer Walk 11:30 a.m.

Mon. 3/28 Pastor's Day Off

Wed. 3/30 Afternoon abbreviated Holy Communion Service (wear masks) 4:30 p.m.
Midweek Lent Service 7:00 p.m.

Thu. 3/31 Pastor out of the office in the afternoon

Sun. 4/3 Fifth Sunday in Lent

- Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Bible Class 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School for Kids 10:45 a.m., Upstairs Youth Room
- Deliver Easter Invitations 11:30 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for our Sunday morning Divine Services:

1. Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available on the table in the entryway if you decide to use them.
2. Those who wish may request a squirt of hand sanitizer from the usher before Holy Communion, and sanitizer will also be sitting on small tables in the side altar rooms for your use following Communion.
3. The "Sharing of the Peace" has been temporarily suspended.

Pastor's sermons will still be posted on St. Mark's Facebook page a day or two after each service. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – Please join Pastor and others in the basement fellowship hall **after church today** for Adult Bible class. Pastor will continue teaching on the book of Genesis. This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith! Adult Bible Class meets on **Sundays at 10:45 a.m.**, after our Divine Service.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY – Preschool through Elementary-age school kids are welcome to join Mrs. Kaufman in the upstairs youth room (behind the choir loft) right after the Divine Service for Sunday School **today from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** Kids will hear a different Bible story each week; what a great way for them to learn about Jesus! And kids are certainly welcome to bring friends and/or family with them also!

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK TODAY AFTER SERVICE – **This morning**, after the Divine Service and a short Adult Bible Study, those who wish may accompany Pastor Vergin into the neighborhood behind St. Mark's in order to do a "prayer walk." Here, we will be walking around our neighborhood as a group, praying for the people there as we pass by their homes, that God would bless them in body and soul.

NEXT SUNDAY WE DELIVER EASTER INVITATIONS - Next **Sunday, April 3**, after the Divine Service and a brief Adult Bible Study, we will again be going out into our neighborhood to deliver invitations to our Easter service. Here, we will be going door to door in small groups to personally deliver the invitations. Many volunteers are needed for this, so if you are available, please show up in the Fellowship Hall after Bible Study to participate. We hope you will consider joining us for these outreach efforts, especially as we look toward Easter—a day which brings good news for the entire world!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICES - We continue to offer midweek **Wednesday** abbreviated worship services with Holy Communion **at 4:30 p.m.** for those who are still uncomfortable attending the Divine Service with the entire congregation on Sunday mornings. All who attend the midweek 4:30 service will be required to wear masks. The service will be brief (~15 minutes). **The last of these services will take place on April 6.**

MIDWEEK EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES – All are welcome to attend our Midweek Lent Worship Services that will be held on **Wednesday evenings during Lent** (March 30 and April 6) **at 7:00 p.m.** They are a great way to fill your Lenten preparations with the Word of God! At these services, we will be following a series titled "Holy Habits." Here, we will be looking at different habits of the Christian life, that we might repent of our sins and rededicate ourselves to living out the life of faith by the power of Christ's redemption. Furthermore, we will be doing these services "round-robin" style, with pastors from our circuit rotating to different congregations. We hope you will join us for these services, and enjoy the Word of God proclaimed to you by a number of His faithful servants!

SEEKING ADDITIONAL GREETERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS – We are currently seeking some additional greeters for Sunday mornings to help welcome those who attend our Divine Service prior to their entering the sanctuary. Being a greeter is easy! You just arrive at church 15-20 early, stand outside the sanctuary doors, and welcome each person with a hand shake and/or or a smile while saying, "Good morning!" Greeters only greet once every 6 to 8 Sundays, so it isn't a huge time commitment. **If interested, please let Debbie LoCascio** know.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2022! The Board of Elders is leading a reading program in which we will be going through the entire Bible in the year 2022. We hope you will participate! Yearly reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary.

The readings for Week 13 (Mar. 27-Apr. 2) are:

Sun	27-Mar	1 Samuel 17-18
Mon	28-Mar	1 Samuel 19-21
Tue	29-Mar	1 Samuel 22-24
Wed	30-Mar	1 Samuel 25-27
Thu	31-Mar	1 Samuel 28-31
Fri	1-Apr	2 Samuel 1-3
Sat	2-Apr	2 Samuel 4-7

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS – The season of Lent officially began with Ash Wednesday on March 2 this year. Once again, during Lent, we will be receiving donations via our Lenten Coin Folders that **are now located on the table in the entryway**. Since St. Mark’s is working hard to raise funds to help support the kids attending the Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia, this year’s Lenten Coin Folder donations will go toward that purpose. How do the coin folders work? Just place one quarter each day during Lent in 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! Or, you may write a check or give cash for any amount and place it inside the folder. Then you just place the full folder into any offering plate on Easter Sunday or before! It’s an easy and fun activity to do, especially for kids!

EASTER BREAKFAST POTLUCK - St. Mark’s will be having an Easter Breakfast Potluck this year on **Sunday, April 17** following the Divine Service on Easter morning. It will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. Since this is a potluck, we are asking attendees to bring a breakfast item, if possible. The items needed include:

- Breakfast dishes (quiches, casseroles with eggs & sausage, French toast bakes, etc.)
- Cookies
- Desserts
- Orange juice and other juices
- Anything breakfast-related would be good

A sign-up sheet for breakfast items has been posted in the lobby. Set up for the meal will take place on **Saturday, April 16** at 10:00 a.m. and we will need help with this also. Any questions regarding the Easter Breakfast Potluck can be directed to Karen Kaufman or Tom LoCascio.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR LOBBY IDEA COMMITTEE – The Board of Properties is seeking volunteers to be part of a temporary, short-term committee to investigate possible ideas for a welcoming theme for our lobby, and hopefully be able to provide cost information to pass on to our Church Council. If interested, please contact Jim O’Brien (248) 872-2922 or Trent Johnson (260) 452-8573 ASAP.

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES – We hope you will join us in April for the following Holy Week worship services: Palm Sunday on **April 10** at 9:30 a.m.; Maundy Thursday on **April 14** at 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service on **April 15** at 7:00 p.m.; the Resurrection of our Lord Divine Service on **April 17** at 9:30 a.m. Our Easter service will be followed by a free Easter Breakfast and then a Kids' Easter Egg Hunt. Hope to see you at these!

NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Hey, men! We hope you'll join pastor on **Saturday, April 9** for our next Men's Bible Study in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be offered to those who wish to enjoy it. Looking forward to seeing you there!

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT & FUN – All kids are invited to attend St. Mark's Community Easter Egg Hunt & Fun on **Saturday, April 16** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. They will enjoy games, egg decorating, cookie making, holding/petting small animals from Turtle Creek Farm in Waterford, and of course, hunting for eggs! Make plans now to bring your kids/grandkids! Also, we need volunteers to help stuff eggs after church on Sunday, April 10. If you can help, please write your name on the sign-up sheet located on the back table in the sanctuary. We'll also need volunteers to help work the event on April 16. Again, a sign-up sheet is now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary for this.

QUILTING BEE NEWS - The ladies' Quilting Bee group is at it again! They have already started making quilts for this fall's Lutheran World Relief quilt collection. And they could use more help! If you'd like to learn how to quilt, or if you already know how to quilt, please feel free to join them **each Thursday morning starting at 10:00 a.m.** to piece together cloth squares, attach backing, sew, etc. Many hands are needed as they have a lot of fabric to work with! Any questions regarding the Quilting Bee group can be directed to Jennie Kaufman or Lynn Thomas.

EASTER BASKETS FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN, PONTIAC – St. Mark's Women's League will be filling 26 Easter baskets with goodies that will then be taken to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac to help with their Easter Sunday children's celebration. Our ladies could use assistance with filling and wrapping the baskets on **Friday, April 1** at 10:00 a.m. Many hands will make this job go much faster! If you'd like to help, please contact Jennie Kaufman in advance to let her know. Or, just drop by on April 1 at 10:00 a.m. and Jennie can show you what needs to be done. Thanks in advance for your assistance with assembling the baskets!

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!

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO BE LWML PRESIDENT AT ST. MARK'S - St. Mark's Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) board is seeking someone to fill the role of president. Our long-time member, Gail Hardy, had served as president for many years until she went to be with Jesus a few months ago. We now need a woman from St. Mark's to fill this position. The LWML is the leading group for Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod's women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness. As Lutheran Women in Mission, these ladies joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Some of the duties St. Mark's LWML president would perform include being the liaison between the LWML office in St. Louis, Missouri and St. Mark's LWML board, attending a few LWML Zone Rallies in our local area, overseeing some small mission fundraising events here in order to help support the work of missionaries, and assist with St. Mark's Quilting Group. Jennie Kaufman is the current Treasurer of St. Mark's LWML board. If you have any questions about the LWML, or the duties of the LWML president, feel free to talk to Jennie for more information. We'd love to find our new LWML president as soon as possible, so **if you'd be interested, please let Pastor Vergin ASAP.**

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

KEITH ELEMENTARY "INVISIBLE DAD" LUNCH PROGRAM DONATIONS – Dr. Marci Augenstein, Principal at Keith Elementary, stopped by St. Mark's for a visit last Monday in order to thank us, personally, for helping to support Keith's Invisible Dad lunch program. She stated that she, and the office staff, were thrilled to receive our check for \$252, and she also said how much they appreciate knowing that a local church is willing to help supplement their student school lunch program. The Invisible Lunch Program was started a few years ago by a dad of one of the students so that if a child forgot to bring a lunch, or if their personal lunch fund balance was short, the school could offer them a full lunch at no cost instead of the free, state-sponsored "tiny lunch" that doesn't contain enough food and isn't the healthiest. St. Mark's has placed our Invisible Dad Lunch donation jar back on the table in the back of the sanctuary so that we can receive any extra change you'd like to donate for next year's lunch program at Keith. Thanks so much to everyone who donated this past year!

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. PETER LUTHERAN, EASTPOINT, HOSTS MICHIGAN OHIO CHORALE – All are invited to attend a special spring concert by the Michigan Ohio Chorale at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 23000 Gratiot Ave., Eastpointe **on Sunday, April 24** at 4:00 p.m. The concert is called “Crown Him with Many Crowns” and will be under the direction of Erwin Aufdemberge with organ, brass quartet, and an instrumental ensemble. The concert will feature Easter Music and more: Cantata by Buxtehude and The Lord’s Prayer by Hammerschmidt. A free will offering will be received for the concert.

CHRIST LUTHERAN, MILFORD, HAS SCHOOL OPENINGS & SEEKS A TEACHER – Christ Lutheran School located in Milford has openings for Preschool and Kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. They provide a Christian education in a warm, caring environment for the young children of their church, as well as the community. Registration is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. For more information about the school (curriculum, days, times, costs, etc.), feel free to call Ruth Carlton, School Director, at (248) 496-5994. They are also seeking a part-time preschool teacher to teach morning classes. If interested, please submit a resume to the following email address: preschool@christlutheranmilford.org, **within the next 2 weeks**. Or you may email your resume to: Christ Lutheran School, Attn: Ruth Carlton, 620 General Motors Road, Milford, MI 48381.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician

Charlie Powell