

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: info@stmarkwb.org
Website: www.stmarkwb.org



The Second Sunday in Lent

13 March A✠D 2022

Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Second Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on how to pray in difficult times. Yeah, in this world we face many difficulties, and at times it might seem as if God doesn't care. However, God has revealed His love to us in Christ, and has promised salvation to all who believe. In difficult times, God calls us to cling to this Truth and endure in prayer, knowing that He does hear and will save at the perfect time.

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: 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

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 25:1–2a, 7–8, 11; antiphon: vv. 6, 2b, 22

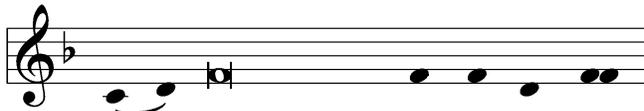
- P** Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.
- P** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;**
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD!
- P** Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- C** **For your name's sake, O LORD,**
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

**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** Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- C** **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Kyrie

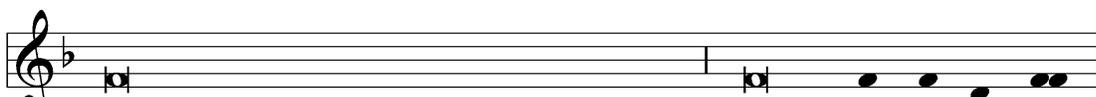
Mark 10:47



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.



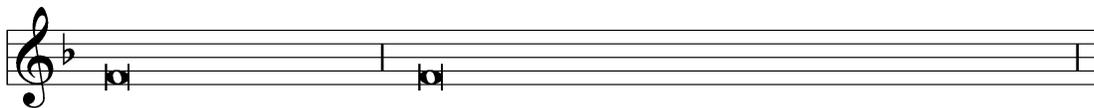
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



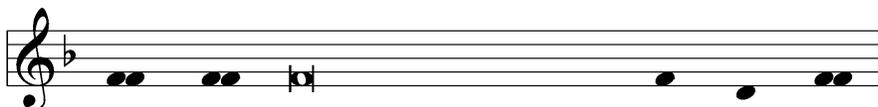
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Genesis 32:22–32

²²The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. ²⁴And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. ³²Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 25:17–18

- P** The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- C** **Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.**

Epistle

Romans 5:1–5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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

Stand

Tract

Psalm 106:1–4

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

- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- C** **Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?**
- P** Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times!
- C** **Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you save them.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

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



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side
 2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
 3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?
 4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
 Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.
 In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
 He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,
 He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
 So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
 He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.
 I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.
 His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
 Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

5 Praise God with acclamation
 And in His gifts rejoice.
 Each day finds its vocation
 Responding to His voice.
 Soon years on earth are past;
 But time we spend expressing
 The love of God brings blessing
 That will forever last!

That day of bliss divine,
 Which knows no end or measure,
 And Christ, who is my pleasure,
 Forever shall be mine.

6 Yet even though I suffer
 The world's unpleasantness,
 And though the days grow rougher
 And bring me great distress,

△7 For thus the Father willed it,
 Who fashioned us from clay;
 And His own Son fulfilled it
 And brought eternal day.
 The Spirit now has come,
 To us true faith has given;
 He leads us home to heaven.
 O praise the Three in One!

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; (sts. 1–2, 6): tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (st. 7): tr. Joseph Herl, 1959

Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, 1557, Lyons, alt.

Text (sts. 1–2, 6): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; (sts. 3–5, 7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

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 To the Shepherd of Israel, whose tender mercies and loving kindness are of old,
that He would not depart from us until He blesses us; and that He would hear our
prayers, which we lay before Him in steadfast faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church and all pastors in Christ, especially Matthew, our Synod president;
David, our district president; and Terry, our circuit visitor; and for our
congregation, for Ziah Town Lutheran Church in Liberia, and for every Christian
congregation, that we would be strong in faith and filled with joy, let us pray to the
Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that they would not be places of anger, divisiveness, or sin, but a
refuge of love and a foretaste of our heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation and its officials, that the Lord would give them wisdom and integrity, and that neither they nor the citizens of our land would hinder His Church or despise His call to repentance; and for the people of Ukraine, that the Lord would defend them by His almighty power and frustrate the plans of those who do evil against them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who are sick and afflicted, [*especially _____,*] that He who cast out demons and cured every ill would strengthen their faith and deliver them from suffering, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune, that God would receive us in His mercy and enable us to make the good confession, both of our sin and of Him, our only Savior; and that He would lead us to approach Him in faith, rejoicing to have a seat at our Master's table, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we implore You by Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our hearts and confirm our faith and hope in Your grace and mercy. Although we have reason to fear for the sake of our conscience, our sin and our unworthiness, let us nevertheless hold fast, like the woman of Canaan, to Your grace. In every trial and temptation, let us find You a present help and refuge; through 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.



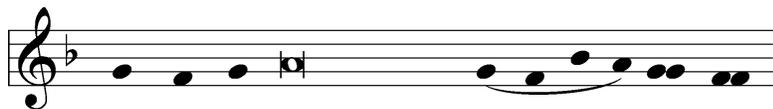
C And al - so with you.



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."

Distribution Hymn: 763 When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

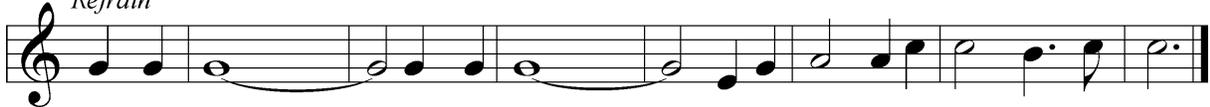


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune: William Croft, 1678-1727
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. 3/13** **Second Sunday in Lent**
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
- **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
- Mon. 3/14** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 3/15** **Church Council Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 3/16** **Afternoon abbreviated Holy Communion Service** (wear masks) 4:30 p.m.
Midweek Lent Service 7:00 p.m.
- Thu. 3/17** **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
Pastor out of the office in the afternoon
- Fri. 3/18** **Deadline to submit April's newsletter articles to the church office**
- Sun. 3/20** **Third Sunday in Lent**
1ST DAY OF SPRING
- **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

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!

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). These services will continue throughout the season of Lent.

MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP SERVICES – All are welcome to attend our Midweek Lent Worship Services that will be held on **Wednesday evenings during Lent** (March 16, 23, 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!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GAIL HARDY – The memorial service for our church member, Gail Hardy (went to be with Jesus on Jan. 8, 2022) will take place here on **Wednesday, March 23** at 10 a.m. There will not be a luncheon afterward. All are welcome to come and celebrate the life of our dear sister in Christ, Gail.

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.

HOLY WEEK MUSIC PRACTICE SCHEDULE – Choir rehearsals will take place on Monday evenings at 6:15 p.m. starting **March 7**. Handbell rehearsals will take place on Mondays also at 7:00 p.m. starting **March 7**. If you’d like to participate in the choir, or ring with the handbell choir, please let Debbie LoCascio know ASAP.

A NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP IS STARTING UP! St. Mark's will be having its first young adults' event on **Tuesday, March 22** from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. The event is for all young adults (married or single) and their families. Our first event will be a game night with some arts and crafts for the young children. Please bring your family and friends to this event. We are looking forward to seeing you! Any questions regarding the Young Adult Group can be directed to Trent Johnson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH - As a Christian congregation, God calls us to be reaching out to our community with the Gospel of Christ, that His Word might be spread abroad and that His kingdom might grow. Therefore, in the weeks leading up to Easter, we will be engaged in some special outreach efforts in our neighborhood. First of all, on **Sunday, March 27**, we will be going out into our neighborhood 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. This prayer walk will take place after the Divine Service, following an abbreviated Bible Study. Second, on **Sunday, April 3**, 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. 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!

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! There's nothing more important for us than the Word of Christ, for His Word is "Spirit and Life" (John 6:63)! Yearly reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary.

The readings for Week 11 (Mar. 13-Mar. 19) are:

Sun	13-Mar	Judges 1-3
Mon	14-Mar	Judges 4-5
Tue	15-Mar	Judges 6-8
Wed	16-Mar	Judges 9-10
Thu	17-Mar	Judges 11-13
Fri	18-Mar	Judges 14-16
Sat	19-Mar	Judges 17-19

LENTEN COIN FOLDERS – The season of Lent officially begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls 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 for school supplies and catechisms for the kids attending the Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia, this year's Lenten Coin Folder donations will also go toward the purchase of these items. 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! Then you can just place the full folders into any offering plate on Easter Sunday or before! It's an easy and fun activity to do, especially for kids!

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE - As you prepare for the season of Lent, we hope you will grab a copy of the Lenten Devotional Booklets provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries that are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. These booklets offer scripture readings and devotions for each day during Lent. They make for excellent reading and study 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.

EASTER BREAKFAST POTLUCK - St. Mark's Church Council has decided that our congregation 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.

NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR EASTER PLANTS – You can help beautify St. Mark's sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing spring flowering plants that will be placed around the altar area that day. After the Easter worship service, you can take your plant(s) home and transplant them into your garden. Plants may be ordered in honor, or in memory, of a loved one or just to help beautify the sanctuary. For prices and ordering information, see **today's pink bulletin insert**.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE - As you prepare for the season of Lent, we hope you will grab a copy of the Lenten Devotional Booklets provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries that are now located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. These booklets offer scripture readings and devotions for each day during Lent. They make for excellent reading and study 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.

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 know quickly.**

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 DONATION TOTAL – Thanks so very much to everyone who donated their spare change to our Keith Elementary "Invisible Dad" Lunch Program over the past 12 months! The donations were counted last week and totaled \$252.10! That was way over what was given last year (\$145). A check for \$252.10 has been sent to the principal at Keith for use for their Invisible Dad lunch program so that no child will have to be without a lunch if they forget to bring one, or if their personal lunch fund balance runs short.

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.**

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.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Tom LoCascio

Greeter(s)

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Usher

Tom Kaufman

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman