

# 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](mailto:info@stmarkwb.org)  
Website: [www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org)



But he said,  
“Blessed rather are  
those who hear the  
word of God and  
keep it!”  
Luke 11:28 ESV

## **The Third Sunday in Lent**

20 March A✠D 2022

*Divine Service, Setting I*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Third Sunday in Lent. On this day, we consider the joyous freedom that Jesus gives. By nature, we are all hopelessly bound in the darkness of sin and death, under the tyranny of the devil. However, Jesus has secured our release through His death and resurrection, and now He comes to us daily in His Word and Sacraments to set us free, that through faith in Him we might become children of light and heirs of everlasting life.

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: 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

Stanzas 1-4



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. Louis

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

## Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 25:1–2, 17–18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15–16*

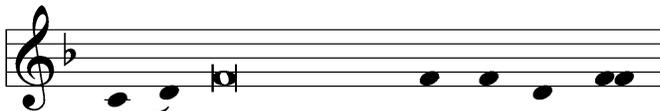
- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**
- P** To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.
- C** **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.**
- 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.**
- P** Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in 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** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

## Kyrie

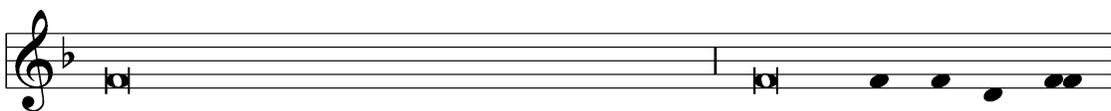
*Mark 10:47*



**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.



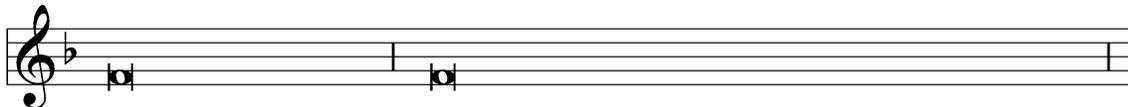
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



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



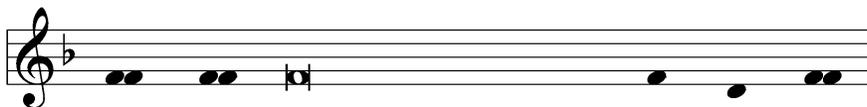
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 8:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” <sup>17</sup>And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup>The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. <sup>19</sup>Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>21</sup>Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. <sup>22</sup>But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. <sup>23</sup>Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.’”” <sup>24</sup>And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 9:19, 3*

**P** Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you!

**C** When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before your presence.

**Epistle**

*Ephesians 5:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Tract**

*Psalm 123:1–3a*

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

**P** To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**C** Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

**P** Have mercy upon us, O LORD,  
have mercy upon us.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

<sup>24</sup>“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

<sup>27</sup>As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” <sup>28</sup>But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*  
**Children's Message**

## Hymn of the Day: 659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our  
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your  
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our  
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your  
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their  
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when  
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.  
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.  
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:  
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.

Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers

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** That our eyes may ever be fixed on our merciful and unchanging God, who is always ready to hear our prayers; and that we would be ready to receive His forgiveness and help in time of need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all Christians, delivered from Satan's kingdom and liberated by Christ's blood to join the ranks of His saints, that God would preserve us faithful to the end, guard us from abandoning or blaspheming the Spirit's work, and turn us in brotherly love toward one another to live according to God's holy will, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the members of every Christian family, that the Lord who calls us to live in purity and holiness would protect us and guide us; and that we would love and seek chastity and decency, learning to grow in virtue and godly living, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our nation with its government, that as no kingdom or house divided can ever stand, God would frustrate the destructive work of Satan, unite our leaders and our people for the common good, and lead us to place our true hope in His eternal kingdom, which is not of this world; and for the people of Ukraine, that the scourge of war would be quickly lifted from upon them, and that our world would be granted peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who are sick, anxious, lonely or oppressed in any way, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that God, who is the strength of the weak, would overcome the devil's demonic attempts to lead them into despair, and grant His healing, cleansing power to rest upon their bodies and minds, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who commune, that the Lord, who joins His Word to the bread and wine and invites us to eat and drink, would grant us to hear and keep His Word in faith, and so worthily receive the true body and blood of our Savior in our mouths and be given His eternal blessing, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Blessed Lord, the mother of Your Son was blessed because she heard Your Word and kept it. Grant that we who hear Your Word would also treasure it in our hearts and minds and so receive Your eternal blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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

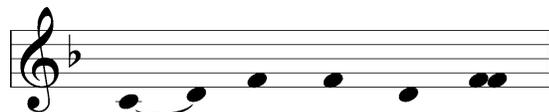


courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

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



**P** The Lord be with you.



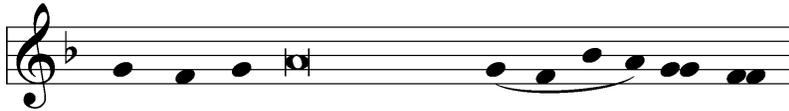
**C** And al - so with you.



**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 (*spoken responsively*)

*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: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, And  
 2 To us on earth He came to bring From  
 3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who  
 4 For us Christ lived, for us He died, And



Christ shall give you light; So learn His love, its  
 sin and fear re - lease, To give the Spir - it's  
 died that He might save; With kind and gen - tle  
 con - quered in the strife; A - wake, a - rise, go



length and breadth, Its full - ness, depth, and height.  
 u - ni - ty, The ver - y bond of peace.  
 hearts for - give As God in Christ for - gave.  
 forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984  
 Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829  
 Text: © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763  
 Tune: Public domain

Stand  
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal 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.



## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/20**    **Third Sunday in Lent**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> 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
- Mon. 3/21**    **Pastor's Day Off**  
**Visitation for Del Joslin @ Elton Black & Sons Funeral Home** on  
Union Lake Road from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Tue. 3/22**    **Funeral for Del Joslin @ St. Mark's** at 11:00 a.m.  
**Young Adult Meeting** 6:00 p.m.
- Wed. 3/23**    **Memorial for Gail Hardy** 10:00 a.m.  
**Afternoon abbreviated Holy Communion Service** (wear masks) 4:30 p.m.  
**Midweek Lent Service** 7:00 p.m.
- Thu. 3/24**    **Pastor out of the office in the afternoon**
- Fri. 3/25**    **Newsletter Distribution**
- Sat. 3/26**    **Family & Youth Meeting** 10:00 a.m.
- 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.

## 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 April 6.

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

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR DEL JOSLIN – A funeral service for our member, Del Joslin, who went to be with Jesus on March 16, will be held here at St. Mark’s on **Tuesday, March 22** at 11 a.m. Del will be lying in-state here prior to that from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Public visitation will also take place at the Elton Black & Sons Funeral Home on Union Lake Road on Monday, March 21 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

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.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP MEETS THIS TUESDAY - St. Mark’s will be having its first young adults’ event this **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.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK IS NEXT SUNDAY - 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! Yearly reading plans are available on the back table in the sanctuary.

**The readings for Week 12 (Mar. 20-Mar. 26) are:**

Sun	20-Mar	Judges 20-21
Mon	21-Mar	Ruth 1-4
Tue	22-Mar	1 Samuel 1-3
Wed	23-Mar	1 Samuel 4-7
Thu	24-Mar	1 Samuel 8-12
Fri	25-Mar	1 Samuel 13-14
Sat	26-Mar	1 Samuel 15-16

**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 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 supporting the students at the school. 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!

**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**.

**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!

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.**





## SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Acolyte

TBD

Altar Guild

Cathy Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

John Sidelinker

Greeter(s)

TBD

Offering Counters

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Percussionist

David Drake

Usher

Trent Johnson

Video Technician

Debbie Sidelinker