

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

22 January A✠D 2023

Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Third Sunday after Epiphany. On this day, we consider the complete authority that Jesus has over sin and death, and how he exercises that authority in seemingly humble ways to bring us salvation. Although in our weakness we would prefer great signs and wonders, God calls us to trust in Jesus' authoritative Word—which still rings out in Christian preaching and the Sacraments—knowing that by this Word we too shall be saved.

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 remain in your pew.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your
3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your
sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -
of - f'rings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,
ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,
Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - joice to live, See Your glo - ry
See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in
Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of



and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.
for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

Text: Basil Woodd, 1760-1831, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 97:1, 10–12; antiphon: vv. 6, 9

P The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

C **For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.**

P The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

C **O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the
wicked.**

P Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

C **Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!**

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

P The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

C **For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



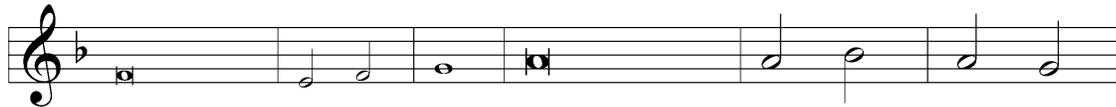
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



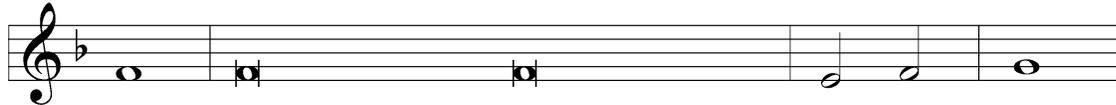
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



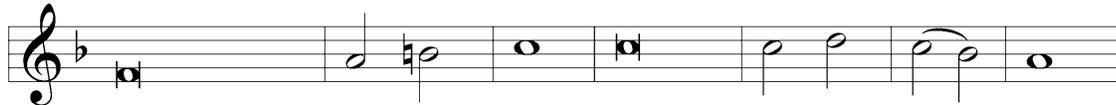
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



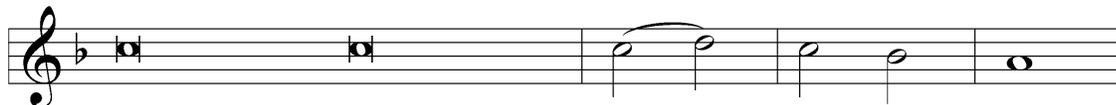
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



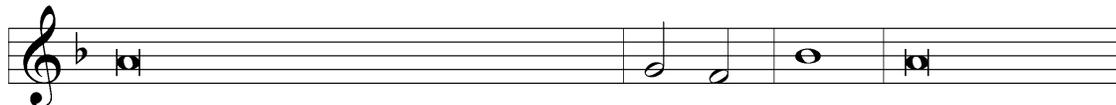
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



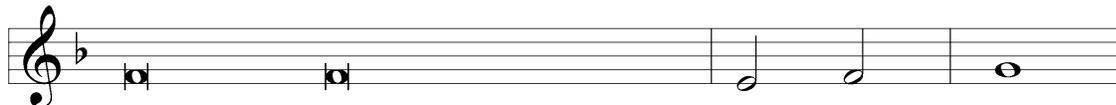
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

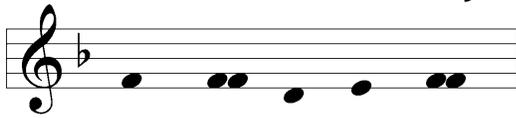


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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

2 Kings 5:1–15a

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to

him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 102:15–16

P Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

C For the LORD builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory.

Epistle

Romans 12:16–21

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Alleluia



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 8:1–13

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹ When [Jesus] came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can

make me clean.”³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

⁵When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

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

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

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

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born



1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the
2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man
3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of
4 A - bide with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of



on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -
flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -
heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed
dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -



crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.
stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.
sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.
gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5 Lord, once You came to earth's
domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Antiphoner, 1753, Grenoble

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, bless Your Holy Church throughout the world, that she would rejoice in You with a thankful heart. Strengthen Your Church so that she would not be ashamed of the Gospel, but confess it, preach it and cling to it as Your power for salvation to everyone who believes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, bless all the congregations of our Synod, that they would be faithful to Your Word and motivated by Your love and compassion in all they do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We thank You, dear Father, for the gift of Holy Baptism, by which You heal the corruption of our sinful nature and save us by Christ's power. With Your great Word and name, plain water becomes a life-giving stream. Do not let us forget our Baptism, nor withhold it from our children, but treasure it as Christ's trustworthy promise and arise daily to newborn life, cleansed by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You have raised up civil authorities over Your people, including Joseph, our president; Gretchen, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Grant that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all comfort, look with compassion on the sick and suffering, [*especially* _____,] that they would know Your peace and receive healing and relief according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy God, as we approach Your holy altar to receive Christ's very body and blood, give us humility and faith to confess with the centurion that, though we are unworthy to have Your Son come under our roof, nevertheless, at His Word, we shall be healed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You have actually spoken Your great Word by Your prophets and apostles. Do not let us despise this Word but, in spite of all appearances, gladly receive its wisdom and promises, doing as Christ commands; 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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



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



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



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



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



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



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

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

Matthew 6:9–13

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

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

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

Pax Domini

John 20:19



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



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

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

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

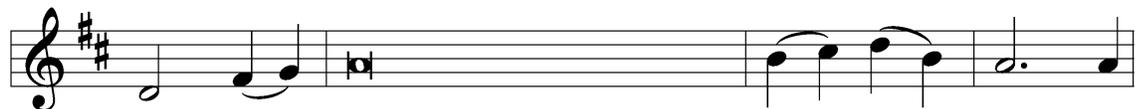
5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



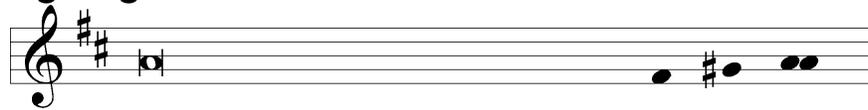
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



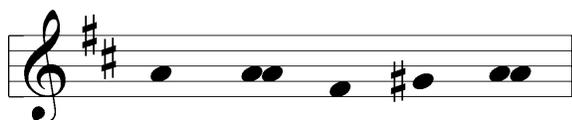
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.



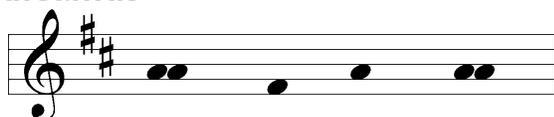
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



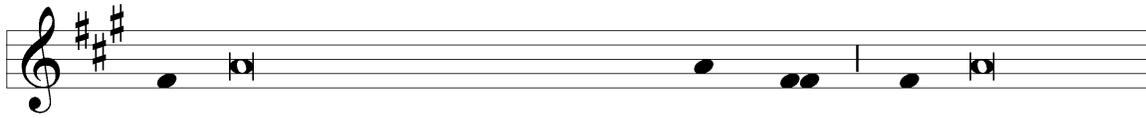
A Bless we the Lord.



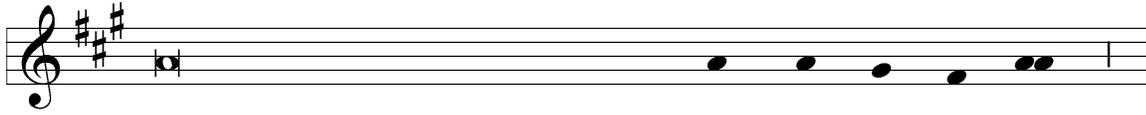
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

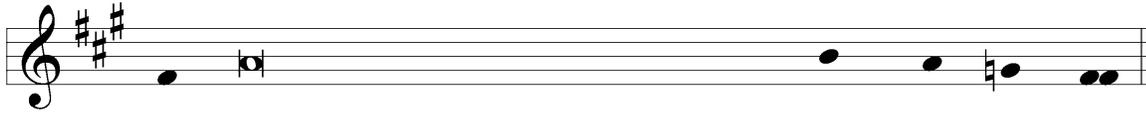
Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Benediction marks the end of the Divine Service. Following the Announcements, the congregation will sing the Closing Hymn below and depart in joy.

Closing Hymn: 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
out ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg

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Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/22** **The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**
Lutherans for Life Sunday
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 1/23** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Wed. 1/25** **Wednesday Nights in Christ** 5:15 – 6:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Midweek Adult Bible Study 6:00 p.m., Library
- Thu. 1/26** **Pastor out of the office in the afternoon**
- Fri. 1/27** **February's newsletter distributed**
- Sun. 1/29** **The Transfiguration of our Lord**
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY - All are welcome to join Pastor Vergin in the Fellowship Hall after church **this morning (around 10:45 a.m.)** as he continues teaching on the Book of Genesis. The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and it tells the story of God's salvation from the very beginning. It starts with the creation of the world and the fall into sin, and from there it traces the promise of the Savior from generation to generation, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jacob's twelve children. It includes the account of Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Call of Abraham, and Joseph's rise in Egypt. At every place it proclaims the steadfast love of God and His faithfulness in redeeming mankind from the guilt of our sin. We hope you will join us for this study! This is a great opportunity to fill your week with God's Word and to grow in knowledge and faith!

MIDWEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - Would you like to deepen your knowledge of God's Word and be refreshed in the peace of Christ during the week? Please join us for our Midweek Bible Study! This study will be held on **Wednesday evenings** from 6-6:45pm (during our Wednesday Nights in Christ children's program). We will be meeting in the library, and the study is discussion-based and very different from our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class. We hope you will consider joining us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN CHRIST YOUTH PROGRAM - St. Mark's Board of Family & Youth invites all kids ages 4 through those in 5th Grade to attend our weekly **Wednesday Nights** in Christ program from 5:15 – 6:45 p.m.! This program for youth is both educational and fun. The evening starts with a simple dinner for kids and their parents **from 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.** After that, the kids enjoy hearing a different Bible lesson each week as they help our teachers place Bible characters and background decor on a large, felt flannel board. Lastly, the kids will either make a craft, play games, or be taught some life skills by a special speaker. If you know of a youth that would like to attend, feel free to visit St. Mark's website to sign them up! All students are welcome to bring their friends! And this program is free! Also, thanks so very much to those who have been providing desserts each week at the dinners. The kids just love those! **If you'd like to help provide a dessert once in a while, please sign up on the sheet located on the easel in the lobby.** Thank you in advance!

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD DIVINE SERVICE – Next **Sunday, January 29**, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. On this day, we'll remember how Jesus was transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James, and John, shining out with His own divine glory. In this way, the season of Epiphany is brought to its culmination, and we see Jesus for who He truly is. We look forward to seeing you on January 29!

QUILTING BEE WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY – St. Mark's Quilting Bee will resume meeting on **Thursday, February 2** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed to help tie knots and/or sew. You don't have to know how to quilt in order to help out!

A CONFERENCE ABOUT READING THROUGH THE BIBLE - Jesus rebuked the Sadducees saying, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29). The power of God is in His Word: The Word Works. Come join other LCMS Christians on **Saturday, February 4** from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for a day of instruction, conversation, and reflection that will enable you to build an ethic of Bible reading. The event will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy, Lansing, MI. Topics discussed will include:

- What does it take to develop a habit of daily Bible reading?
- How long would it take to read the whole Bible in a year? Is that a good idea?
- What is the point of reading the Old Testament when there is a New Testament?
- What tools and options are there?
- What difference does thorough Bible reading make in our lives and our witness?

God works through His Word—Jesus, the Word made flesh, and the Word, the Bible, given for us to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. What kind of People of Hope would we be if together we gave ourselves over to reading through the entire Bible in 2023? Let's spend a day together and think about it! The cost to register is \$25 for an adult and \$15 for students and includes a boxed lunch. Livestream is free, but you must register online to receive the link. To register, visit: <https://michigandistrict.org/event/theological-conf-2023/#register>.

UPCOMING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – All men are invited to attend the next Men's Bible Study & Breakfast on **Saturday, February 11** from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. This is a great way to get together with your brothers in Christ for fellowship and studying God's Word! Bring a friend!

JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2023! For us Christians, there is no greater joy than meditating on the Holy Scriptures, for there God proclaims to us the Truth of Christ, so that in Him we might have life! With this in mind, the Board of Elders invites you to join us in reading through the entire Bible in 2023. The reading schedule for 2023 is laid out differently than the schedule for 2022. **If you are interested in going through the Bible in 2023, and would like a copy of the reading schedule, please see Pastor Vergin.**

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

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – We are seeking additional church member volunteers for the following church positions:

- **Greeters** – arrive 15-20 minutes before our Sunday services approximately once every other month to greet those entering the sanctuary
- **Offering Counters** – you and a partner would gather in an office after church on Sundays to count the offerings during a specific month of your choosing
- **Ushers** – distribute bulletins on Sunday mornings, collect the offerings during the service, send people up for Communion in groups of 12, etc. normally one Sunday per month.

If you'd like to help in one or more of these positions, please contact the following: for greeters - Debbie LoCascio (debbie@stmarkwb.org); for Offering Counters - Lori Whitehead (whiteheadll2010@gmail.com); for ushers - Darryl Swainson (dswain001@yahoo.com).

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER – On Ash **Wednesday, February 22**, we will be hosting our annual Soup & Salad Supper from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. This will be followed by the Divine Service with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. Our Board of Parish Fellowship is asking that if you'll be attending the supper, you sign-up on the sheet located on the easel in the lobby and include the number of people who will be attending with you. We also need volunteers to either make a soup, bring the salad, or make desserts. Food donations can also be listed on the sign-up sheet.

KEITH ELEMENTARY “INVISIBLE DAD” LUNCH PROGRAM DONATIONS – Keith Elementary’s Invisible Dad 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 a collection jar on the table in the back of the sanctuary for any loose change donations. **We will be totaling what’s in the jar and sending Keith a check during the month of March, so if you have any extra change you’d like to donate in February and/or early March, it would be greatly appreciated.**

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

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.

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

Altar Guild Duty (January)

Elder on Duty

Greeters

Offering Counters (January)

Usher

Video Technician

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Barb Allen

Charlie Powell

Gail Fitzgerald

John & Debbie Sidelinker

Tom Kaufman

Karen Kaufman