

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

3 September A.D. 2023

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider the role of mercy in the Christian life. As sinners, we were condemned by the Law, worthy only of everlasting death. Our good works could not save us. However, our Lord Jesus had mercy on us, giving up His very life to save us, lift us up, and heal us. Now, having received eternal life through faith, He sends us out to have mercy on others as He had mercy on us.

If you are a VISITOR here, we 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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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

C Amen.

Stand

Hymn of Invocation: 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*) *Psalm 74:1–2, 19b, 21b; antiphon: vv. 20a, 21a, 22a, 23a*

P Have regard for the covenant, [O Lord];
let not the downtrodden turn back in shame.

C Arise, O God, defend your cause;
do not forget the clamor of your foes.

P O God, why do you cast us off forever?
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

C Remember your congregation,
which you have purchased of old,

P which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!
Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

C Do not forget the life of your poor forever.
Let the poor and needy praise your 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 Have regard for the covenant, [O Lord];
let not the downtrodden turn back in shame.

C Arise, O God, defend your cause;
do not forget the clamor of your foes.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



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

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain what You have promised, make us love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

⁸The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria. ⁹But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, “Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. ¹⁰And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the LORD your God? ¹¹Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you.”

¹²Certain chiefs also of the men of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who were coming from the war ¹³and said to them, “You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the LORD in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.” ¹⁴So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. ¹⁵And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalms 77:14–15

P You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known your might among the peoples.

C You with your arm redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.

Epistle

Galatians 3:15–22

¹⁵To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. ¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. ¹⁷This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. ¹⁸For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

¹⁹Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through

angels by an intermediary. ²⁰Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

²¹Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. ²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



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



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



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



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

Holy Gospel

Luke 10:23–37

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³Turning to the disciples [Jesus] said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and

your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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

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

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

Sit

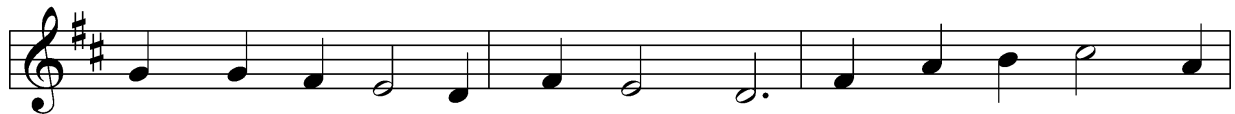
Hymn of the Day: 683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me



1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy



tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,



And reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.

Tune: Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

Text: Public domain

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Sermon

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.

Lord God, You served Your people of old through priest and Levite, who of themselves could never heal the curse of the Law. Give us Christ Jesus, the true Priest, who with His oil and wine is able fully to heal all wounds, forgive all sins and bring us to eternal rest. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous Lord, by our wickedness we merit many of the evils that befall us; nevertheless, cut short Your wrath. Make room for repentance and forgive us for the sake of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, Father of us all, turn the hearts of Christian brother to brother, that those who fall into sin would be brought to repentance and not be rebuked beyond measure, but rather be restored to the communion of the faithful. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord and King, You appoint our earthly rulers to urge the good and punish the wicked. Grant both justice and restraint in their punishments, that goodness and grace may be established in our land. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, wherever the wicked strip and wound, and wherever the devil seeks our fall, You meet us with healing and grace to endure. Soothe and lift up / _____ *and* / all in need. Carry them to find rest in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, as Satan once overcame our first parents through the eating of the tree's fruit, so overcome him now among us by the fruit of Your Son's cross, His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Bless all who commune with repentance and faith, that in the comfort of the Gospel they may be cleansed and prepared for eternal life with You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now 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.

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

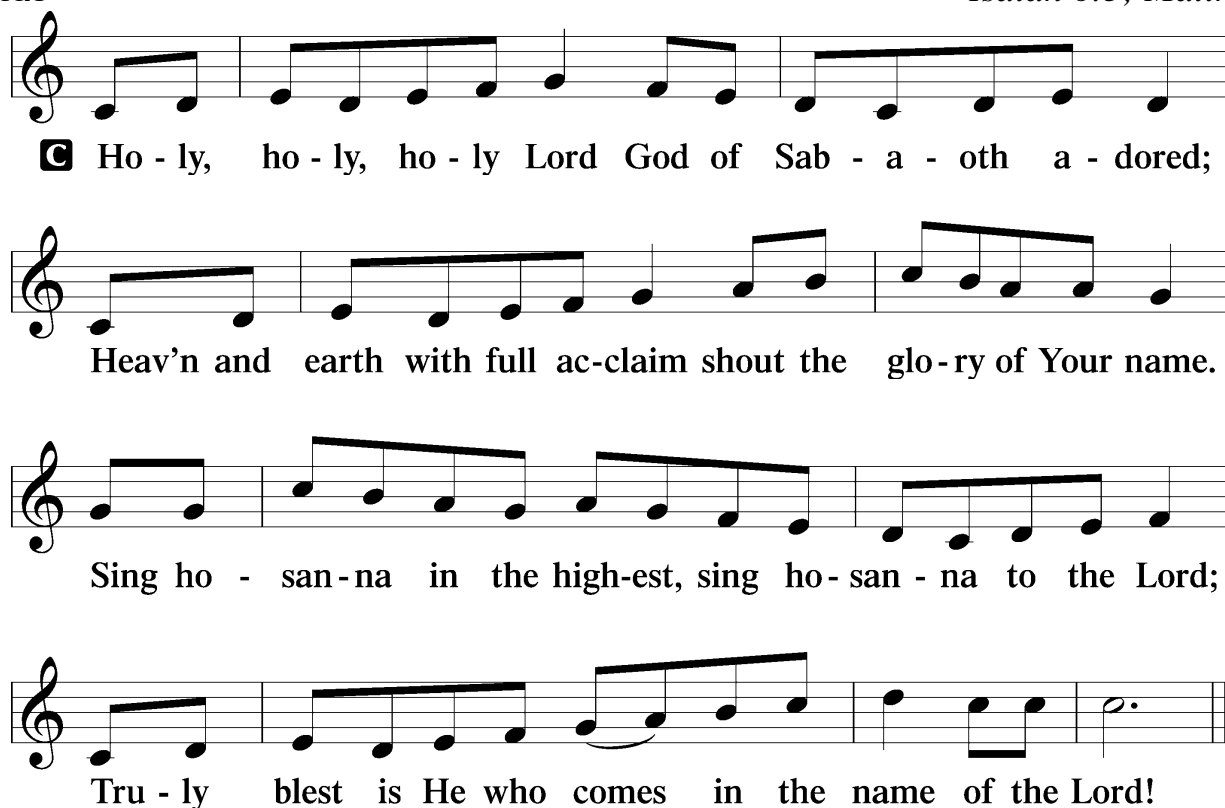
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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

The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service



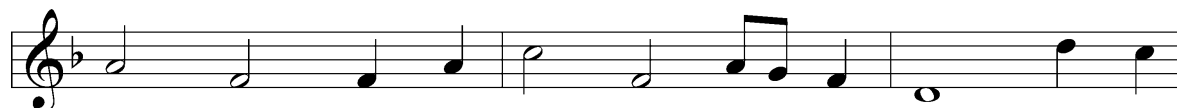
1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home-less; Still the hun - gry
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn: 850 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 9/3** **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 9/4** **Labor Day – Church Office closed**
- Tue. 9/5** **Board of Elders' Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library**
- Thu. 8/31** **Quilting Bee 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**
- Sun. 9/10** **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Terry Nelson presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AFTER CHURCH – All are invited to join Pastor Zwonitzer in the basement Fellowship Hall directly after church (10:45 a.m.) for Adult Bible Study. Pastor will be teaching on the 3 scripture lessons for today, and snacks will be available too. Please come and delve deeper into today's Bible readings!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – All 3 surveys that the Michigan District required St. Mark's to complete have been finished. Thanks to everyone who helped fill them out! Very soon, the District will begin compiling the survey results into a report that will provide us with a comprehensive view of where we are in regards to being ready to call a new pastor. Once that report is ready, the District will contact St. Mark's to schedule a date to share it with us (this would then be Step 6 in the Call Process). Creating the report can take the District 3 or 4 weeks. After the District presents to St. Mark's, we will then move on to Step 7: receiving congregational nominations for pastoral candidates. Please continue to keep St. Mark's Call Committee and leaders in your prayers as they work through the Call Process. Any questions regarding the process can be directed to Darryl Swainson, Chairman.

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 in with other congregations in our Circuit by reading through the entire Bible in 2023. You can pick up at any time. **Please visit crafteddaily.com for the reading plan.**

COME TO OUR CHURCH BINGO NIGHT! Calling all members of St. Mark's--young (kids included), old, and everywhere in between! If you're looking to get out of the house and have a great time with your fellow parishioners, we hope you'll attend our upcoming Church BINGO Night that will take place here on **Saturday, September 16** from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The event is being hosted by Nancy McInnis and the LoCascio's as a way to encourage continued Christian fellowship and companionship while we await our next permanent pastor. And, the event is FREE! The laughs will be FREE! Your hosts' comical reactions, also FREE! Prizes will include a variety of full-size candy bars and a few other little items. Snacks will include popcorn and drinks. No need to bring anything! BINGO chips and cards will be provided! Mark this on your calendars now! Come, and have a great time with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS TO OCCUR ON SEPTEMBER 24 - St. Mark's Ladies' Group has worked really hard since last fall to make beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and they are all so beautiful! The quilts will be shipped to LWR in mid-October, then be distributed to needy people throughout different areas of the world. On **Sunday, September 24**, Pastor Zwonitzer will be blessing the quilts during the Divine Service before they are shipped overseas. We hope you will join us for worship on that day! St. Mark's Quilting Bee group continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. If you'd like to learn how to quilt, already know how to quilt, or would like to spend time helping to assemble the quilts, just show up on Thursday mornings! No quilting experience is necessary!

NEEDED: MORE MEMBERS FOR THE BOARD OF FAMILY & YOUTH – Now that Mandy Vergin has moved to Grand Haven, and Lynn Thomas will be moving back to Texas on this month, that leaves only Debbie LoCascio serving on the Board of Family and Youth, and she needs help! This is the board that oversees Wednesday Nights in Christ, Vacation Bible School and other Christian education/activities for the youth of St. Mark's. If interested, please see Debbie ASAP to ask any questions, or volunteer. Thanks so much!

CHURCH PLANNING MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER – Hmm...to have the annual Church Planning Meeting, or not; that was the question. And, after careful consideration, it's been decided that the Planning Meeting will go on! Even though we are in a pastoral vacancy, there are several good reasons to gather our church leaders to plan events for 2024. Some of these include: keeping the congregation engaged in doing the Lord's work, and also that a prospective pastor would be much more likely to consider accepting a call from a thriving, active congregation that is busy serving the Lord even in the absence of a permanent pastor. Therefore, on **Saturday, October 21** (please notice the date change from September) from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, we will be gathering our leaders in the Fellowship Hall to plan events for 2024. Essential participants include: all officers, and all chairmen and members of each of these church boards: Elders, Family & Youth, Gospel Outreach, Human Care, LWML, Parish Fellowship, & Properties. It's very important that all church leaders participate, if possible! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

ACCEPTING FLOWER FUND DONATIONS– St. Mark’s Altar Flower Fund balance is starting to get low and, therefore, donations for it would be greatly appreciated. If you’d like to donate toward having fresh flowers on our altar each Sunday, please place cash or check into a pink flower envelope, write “Altar Flowers” on the front, and place it in an offering plate. Thanks!

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

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

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing “Joe Boway” on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark’s), or visiting the St. Mark’s website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.

RECEIVING DONATIONS FOR KEITH ELEMENTARY AGAIN – Keith Elementary School is just around the corner from St. Mark’s. They have a lunch program called the Invisible Dad Lunch Program that was started several years ago by a dad of one of the students so that if a student forgot their lunch, or if their personal lunch fund balance was short, the school could offer them a full lunch at no cost to them. The state-sponsored lunch they would normally receive doesn’t contain much food and isn’t the healthiest, which is why this dad started the program. If you’d like to donate any loose change toward this beneficial program, please place your donation(s) in the glass jar on the table at the back of the sanctuary between now and next March. Then in March, we’ll total up the change and send a check for that amount to Keith Elementary.

OPEN DOOR WILL BE HOSTING TWO FUNDRAISING EVENTS – The Open Door Outreach Center located on Cooley Lake Road in Waterford will be hosting two upcoming fundraising events, and everyone is invited to participate. First is their annual Julie Run/Walk to End Hunger that will take place on **Saturday, September 23** on the OCC Highland Lakes Campus (also on Cooley Lake Road). There will be an on-site photo booth, a warm-up exercise before the walk/run and more! Net proceeds will go to help those in need in our community. For more details and to register, visit: RUNSIGNUP.COM/JulieRunToEndHunger. Their second event will be the Annual Tea & Luncheon at the White Lake Oaks Golf Course, 991 N. Williams Lake Road, White Lake on **Monday, October 2**. The doors will open at 10:00 a.m., Tea & Scones will be available at 11:00 a.m., and Lunch will be served at 12:30 a.m. There will also be vendor tables, themed gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle, a live auction and a guest speaker. Tickets are \$50 per person and can either be purchased from the Open Door Thrift Store or online at: OpenDoorOutreachCenter.com. Net proceeds from the event will provide food, clothing, emergency services and referrals to those in need in our community.

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

Rev. Rod Zwonitzer
Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Jennie Kaufman

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Sue Ingram/Judy Schassberger

Offering Counters

Mary Lockwood/Jean Swainson

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician (on hold for now)

N/A