

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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The Second Sunday in Lent

5 March A✠D 2023

Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Second Sunday in Lent. On this day, we focus on the struggles of the Christian life and how we can face them with confidence. In this fallen world, we Christians will face struggles as we deal with the attacks of unbelievers, and we will face struggles in all the various ways that our faith is tested. But amid it all, we can engage in these struggles with confidence, for we can be sure that through Christ we shall prevail.

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

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

Kneel/Stand

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

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

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

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

C Amen.

Stand

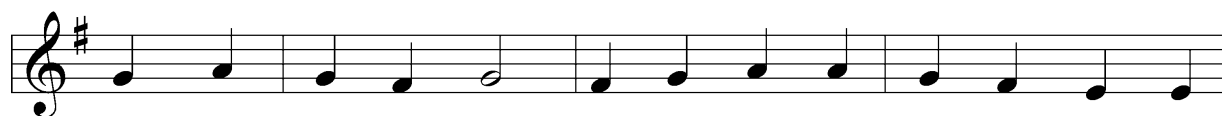
Hymn of Invocation: 423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

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

P Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

C **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

P To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.

C **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;**
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD!

P Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

C **For your name's sake, O LORD,**
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

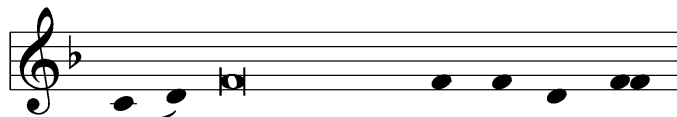
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

C **Let not my enemies exult over me.**
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Kyrie

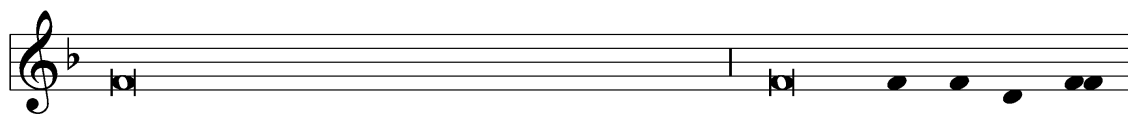
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



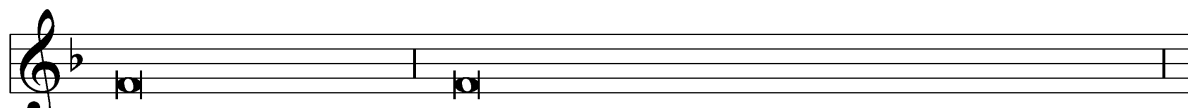
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



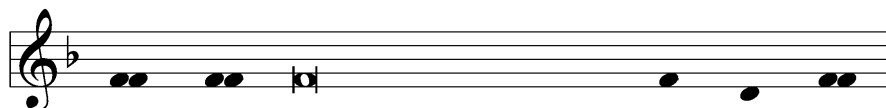
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 32:22–32

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 25:17–18

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

Epistle

Romans 5:1–5

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

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

Stand

Tract (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 106:1–4

During Lent, the Alleluia is replaced by the Tract.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

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



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

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit
Children's Message

The first staff of music is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains two measures of music. The first measure consists of five eighth notes: B-flat, A, G, F, and E. The second measure consists of a quarter rest followed by four eighth notes: D, C, B, and A.

6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

During Lent, we use the Apostles' Creed.

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.

Rite of Confirmation

Page 272

Candidate: David Drake

Prayer of the Church

P Lord God, You sent Your Son first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel before spreading the cover of Your wings over all nations. Move to repentance those of Your ancient people who refuse the testimony of the Messiah, and lead them by Your Spirit to receive Him in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You have knit Jew and Gentile — and all the nations of the world — into Your one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church. Lead us ever more deeply into the unity You desire for Your people, that we may bear one another's burdens in prayer and in works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, Your servant Jacob sent his family ahead that he might wrestle with You in prayer. Strengthen the hearts of fathers in our church, that they likewise would provide for their families and strive with You in prayer until they receive Your blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You watch over the ways of Your people and call us to please You. Lead us to control our bodies and to flee all immorality, that we might show a godly witness in this world and adorn Your Gospel with a holy life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, help us earnestly to seek Your blessing, though it comes together with affliction. Give us eyes to see through these trials, which come from Your hand, to the endurance, character and hope they produce in Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You hear the cries of the severely oppressed and bless them with healing in Your time. Comfort those who wait on You [*especially* _____]. Increase their faith, and bring them through their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, though it is not right to give the children's bread to dogs or to cast pearls before swine, even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table. Receive us in Your mercy and enable all who commune to make the good confession, both of our sin and of You, our only Savior, that we may receive Your true body and blood and be forgiven. 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 now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit
Offering

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

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

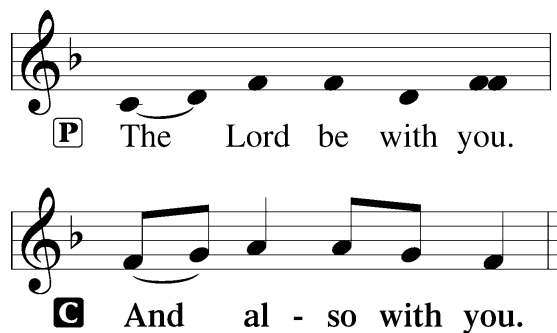


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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



P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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



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



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



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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

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

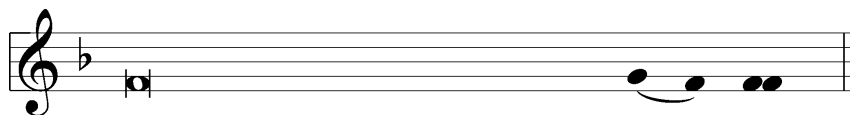
The Words of Our Lord

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

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

Pax Domini

John 20:19



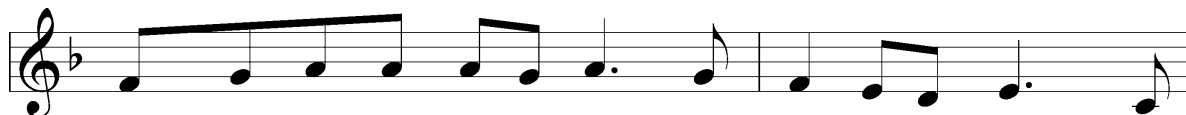
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



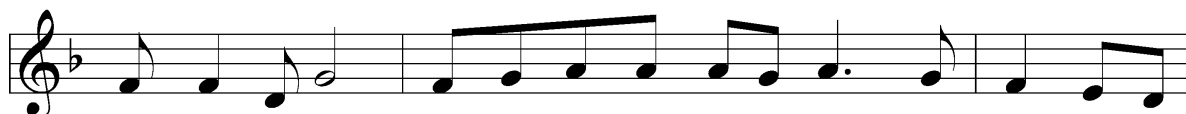
C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



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



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



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn: 693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our Lord and Sav - ior
2 Help us that we Thy sav - ing Word In faith - ful hearts may trea - sure;
3 And when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter hour im - pend - ing,



In faith and fer - vent love em - brace And tru - ly serve Him ev - er.
Let e'er that Bread of Life af - ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure.
Then may Thy work in us be - gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing,



The hour of death can - not bring loss When we are shel - tered
O make us die to ev - 'ry sin, Each day cre - ate new
Un - til we glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our



by the cross That can - celed our trans - gres - sions.
life with - in, That fruits of faith may flour - ish.
Sav - ior's hand, The crown of life ob - tain - ing.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86

Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



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

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

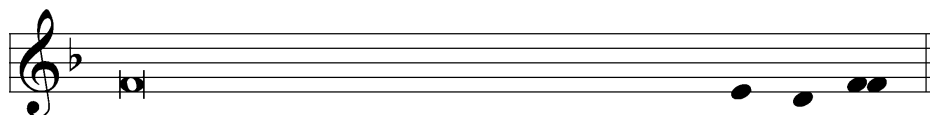
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You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



C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



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 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: 763 When Peace, Like a River



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

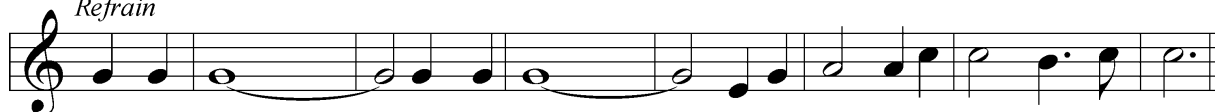


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



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

Refrain



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

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

Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 3/5** **Second Sunday in Lent**
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Mon. 3/6** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 3/7** **Board of Elders' Meeting 7:00 p.m., Library**
- Wed. 3/8** **Wednesday Nights in Christ (in the Fellowship Hall):**
▪ **Dinner** 5:15 – 5:45 p.m.
▪ **Bible Lesson** 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.
▪ **Craft/Game Time** 6:15 – 6:45 p.m.
Midweek Lent Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
- Thu. 3/9** **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Pastor out of the office in the p.m.
- Sun. 3/12** **Third Sunday in Lent**
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
• **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.)** for Adult Bible Study. He will continue 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. We hope you will join us for this study!

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON HOLD THROUGHOUT LENT – Pastor Vergin's **Wednesday evening Adult Bible Study** will be on hold throughout the season of Lent due to our midweek worship services taking place on Wednesday evenings.

MUSIC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are seeking singers, bell ringers and/or instrumentalists for our upcoming Maundy Thursday and Easter morning services. If we get enough singers for a choir and/or enough handbell ringers, then we'd also need directors for each group. If interested in helping with music during Holy Week, please let Debbie LoCascio know ASAP.

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! This program for youth is both educational, fun and free to all children. Each Wednesday, we serve a simple dinner to 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. All grade-school kids are welcome to attend! Parents can register their children on our website: www.stmarkwb.org.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES DURING LENT – We hope you will join us for our midweek Lenten Worship Services held each Wednesday evening throughout Lent at 7:00 p.m. The dates for these are: **March 8, 15, 22 & 29**. The services will follow a series titled *The Fruit of the Spirit: A Lenten Exploration* where we will explore each of the nine “fruits of the spirit” from Galatians 5. Like last year, we will be holding these services in a “round robin” style with other circuit pastors. Please attend, if at all possible!

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 12** this year. Don't forget to “spring forward” one hour with your clocks! Yes, we'll lose an hour of sleep, but on the bright side, we'll have a lot more daylight each day!

QUILTING BEE CANCELLED FOR THIS THURSDAY – St. Mark's Quilting Bee normally meets every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. However, this **Thursday, March 9**, they are not going to meet. Instead, they will resume meeting on Thursday, March 16.

LENTEN COINS TO HELP SUPPORT ZIAH TOWN SCHOOL, LIBERIA – There are some Lenten Coin Holders sitting on the table in the entryway. The way these work is that if you place a quarter in one of the slots each day during Lent (excluding the Sundays in Lent which are **IN** Lent, but not **OF** Lent), you will have \$10 by Easter Sunday. (You may also choose to write a check made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, or place cash in the coin holder instead of filling it with quarters.) Full coin holders can then be placed in the offering plates **on Easter Sunday** and these donations will be sent to Joe Boway in support of the Ziah Town Lutheran School in Liberia, Africa. The school needs additional Small Catechisms, as well as school supplies for the kids. Our Board of Human Care will also continue accepting cans and bottles with those proceeds going to support the school, as well. Thanks in advance for your support of the school!

EASTER IS JUST A MONTH AWAY – In about a month, we will celebrate Holy Week at St. Mark's and we encourage you to attend all of the worship services during that week! The dates and times for these are as follows:

- April 2 – Palm Sunday Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
- April 6 – Maundy Thursday Divine Service 7:00 p.m.
- April 7 – Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers Service at 7:00 p.m.
- April 9 – The Resurrection of our Lord Easter Divine Service 9:30 a.m. This will be followed by our Easter Breakfast (still in planning stages) and the Kids' Easter Egg Hunt.

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 count offerings on Sundays 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
- **Video Technicians** – Record Pastor’s sermons in the choir loft once or twice a 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 and video technicians - Darryl Swainson (dswain001@yahoo.com).

NOW ACCEPTING ORDERS FOR EASTER PLANTS - You can help beautify St. Mark’s sanctuary on Easter morning by purchasing beautiful, flowering, spring plants that will then be placed in and around the altar area that morning. Following the Easter worship service, you may then take your plants home and transplant them into your garden. Plants may be ordered in honor or memory of a loved one, or just to help beautify the sanctuary for Easter. The names of your loved ones will then be included in the Easter morning bulletin. To place an order, please complete the pink insert found in today’s bulletin, place your money and the form into a pink flower envelope (found in the pew racks), mark the envelope “Easter Flowers”, and place it in the offering plate **NO LATER THAN MARCH 13. Only pre-paid orders will be accepted.**

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.**

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 for this fundraiser. **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!

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN IS OFFERING A SEMINAR – St. Stephen Lutheran Church located at 3795 Sashabaw Road in Waterford is hosting a seminar for everyone on Saturday, **May 13** from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 8:30 a.m.) called *Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Courage, Confession & Love*. The speaker will be Rev. Paul Dare from Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN. Rev. Dare wrote the book of the same name and the Bible study that goes with it, and is a frequent speaker at conferences. Here is a synopsis of the seminar:

Systematic racism, privilege, political correctness, woke, anti-racist, social justice are all common words in the world today. What comes to mind when you hear them? Are you able to accurately define them? Does the world seem to be more divided along the lines of race, gender, religion and income? Would you agree that trust in societal institutions such as religion, education, marriage, media and family is diminishing? Does it seem that young people are often losing their Christian faith while attending college? Do you think people desire to be considered a victim or part of a victim group? To understand our world and answer these questions, a Christian in today's America must understand the new Marxism, which is often called Cultural Marxism.

The seminar is free, but seats are limited and registration is required. To register, visit St. Stephen's website at: www.ststephenwaterford.org by Thursday, May 4. If you register and then are unable to attend, please call the church office to cancel at 248-673-6621. There will be a 1-hour break for lunch. You may bring your own lunch or Jimmy John's lunch boxes will be provided upon request for \$12 each. (Sandwich options: ham & cheese, roast beef or turkey.) The lunchbox will include a sandwich, chips, pickle & cookie. Payment for the lunch may be made the day of the event.

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.

✂ **SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING** ✂

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Vergin

Altar Guild Duty (March)

Cathy & Gail Fitzgerald

Elder on Duty

Charlie Powell

Greeters

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters (March)

Barbara Jewell & Lori Whitehead

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician

Karen Kaufman