# **ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



## The Day of Pentecost

28 May A**⊮**D 2023 Divine Service, Setting I

## + Welcome in the name of Jesus! +

Today we observe the Festival of Pentecost. On this day, we celebrate how Jesus, having ascended to the Father, sent down His Holy Spirit upon the Church, so that we might know Him in truth and proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth. Still today, the Spirit dwells among us, exercising His power through the preaching of the Gospel. Therefore, we rejoice today to remember the moment when He was first poured down upon God's people.

If you are a <u>VISITOR</u> 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 <u>VISITOR</u> 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.

## Announcements

## **Confession and Absolution**

## Stand

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

- $\blacksquare$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- $\blacksquare$  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

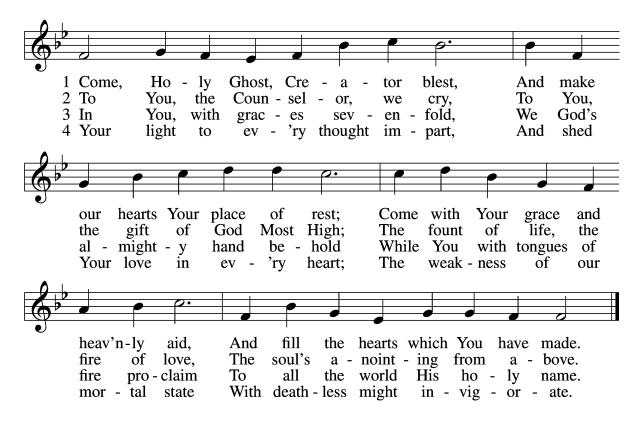
## Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **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.
- 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 with Cross Procession: 498 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

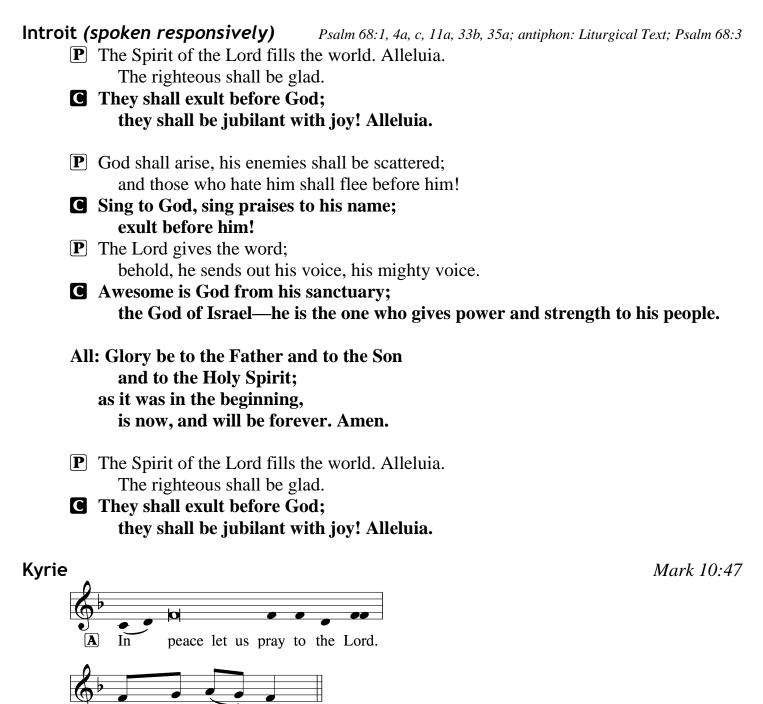
During the Procession, the ancient and laudable custom is to **bow your head** in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.

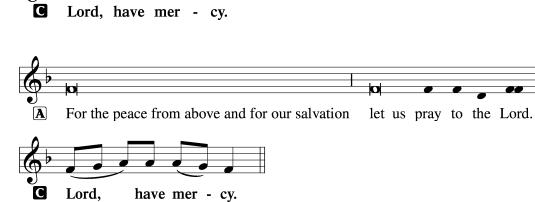


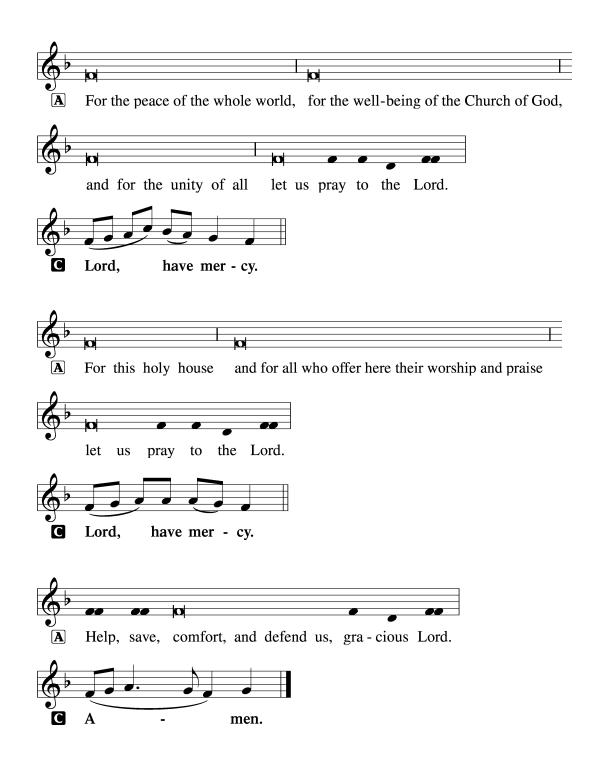
- 5 Drive far away our wily foe, And Your abiding peace bestow; With You as our protecting guide, No evil can with us abide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son, And You, from both, as Three in One That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.
- △7 Praise we the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, with them One, And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow!

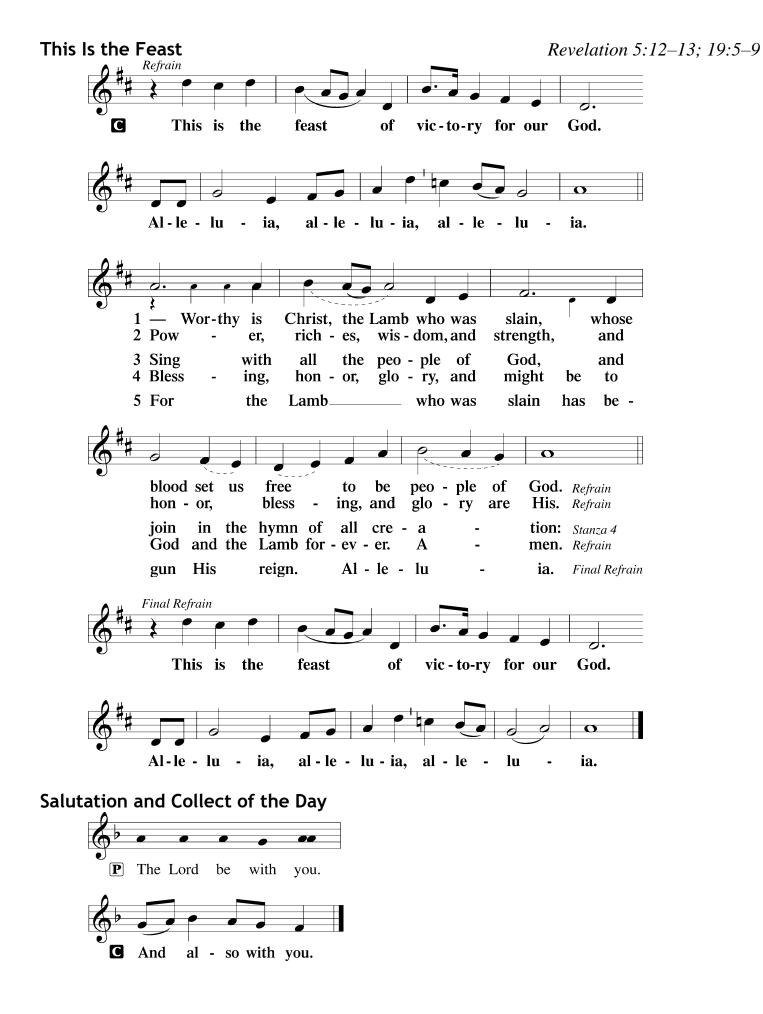
Text: attr. Rabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Word









## **P** Let us pray.

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Sit

## **Old Testament Reading**

### Genesis 11:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup>And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." <sup>8</sup>So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup>Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse (spoken responsively)

Psalm 104:30; Liturgical Text During the celebration of Easter and Pentecost, the Gradual is omitted and the Verse is

expanded.

P Alleluia. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. Alleluia.

**C** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

### Second Reading

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>"And in the last days it shall be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup>even on my male servants and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

<sup>20</sup>the sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

<sup>21</sup>And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Stand Gospel Procession

Please stand and turn in the direction of the Processional Cross and the reader as they move into the center of the nave. The Gospel is read in the midst of the congregation to symbolize the risen Christ's abiding presence among us and to mark the high point of the Service of the Word.



#### Holy Gospel

John 14:23–31

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

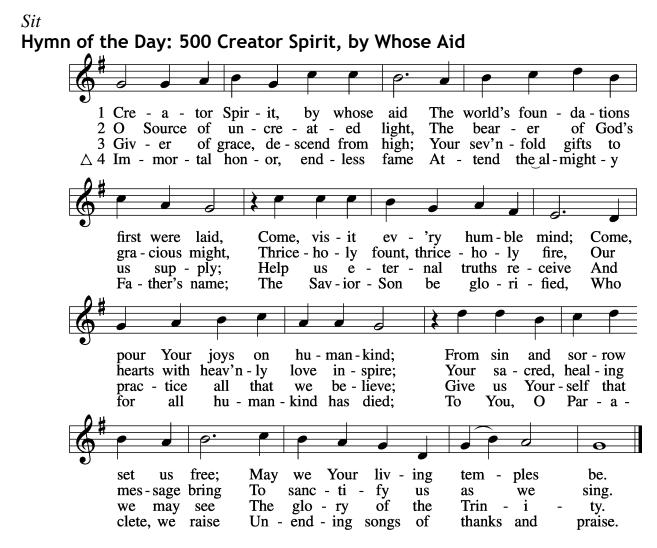
<sup>25</sup>"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup>but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

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



#### **Gospel Recession**

As the Gospel Procession returns to the chancel, **the congregation repeats the "Alleluia"** found on the previous page.



Text: attr. Rabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. John Dryden, 1631–1700, alt. Tune: Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder, 1541, Strassburg, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

Stand

**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.

## Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the preaching of God's Word throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- **P** That the Holy Spirit would create faith in the hearts of the nations, so that on the great and magnificent day of the Lord many may call on the name of the Son and be saved, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the whole Christian Church on earth, that she would be filled, renewed, enlightened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit as on the first Pentecost; that many more will be called by the Gospel; and that the Sacraments would be administered faithfully and all Christians be kept in the true faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

In thanksgiving for those who served our nation through military service and in grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives for us and the cause of freedom, that we may honor their sacrifice by using our liberty responsibly; for all who travel, that they would be kept safe; for our nation and its blessing; and for aid in protecting and increasing the benefits we have for those who follow us, looking always to You, from whom these gifts come, let us pray to the Lord:

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

● For the comfort of the Holy Spirit in a dark world; that wounds would be soothed and healed, broken families restored, the depressed uplifted, the poor aided and all cries answered, [especially for \_\_\_\_\_,] let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P That the Spirit of truth would clear away all distractions so that our hearts and minds may focus on Christ present in the bread which is His body and the cup of His blood, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P That God would receive our praise and thanksgiving for His gifts of grace in this Sacrament, together with our tithes and offerings, as tokens of our trust in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

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

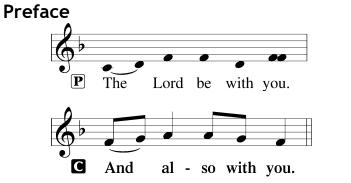
- P Almighty Father, with Your Son, Jesus Christ, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word to rule and govern us according to Your will, comfort us in every temptation and misfortune, and defend us against every error, that we may continue steadfast in the faith, increase in love and good works, and — trusting firmly in Your grace for us by His death — obtain eternal salvation; 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.

#### Sit Offering

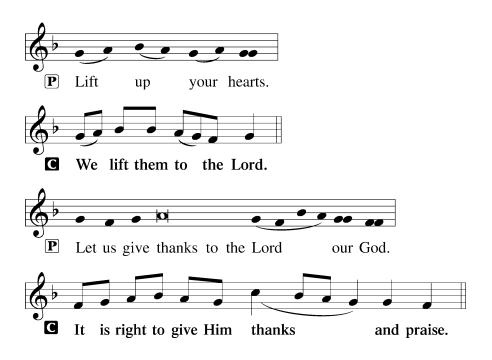
During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located at either end of your pew.



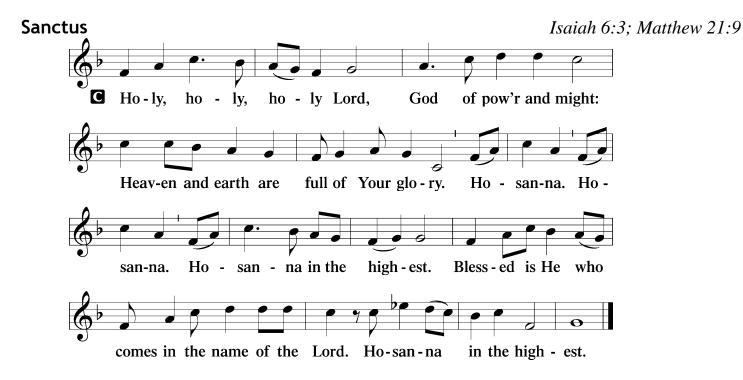
## Service of the Sacrament



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



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 ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day the promised Holy Spirit on His chosen disciples. For all this the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## 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 allavailing 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

**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."

Matthew 6:9–13



## Sit

#### Distribution

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

Following Holy Communion, the Pastor says:

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

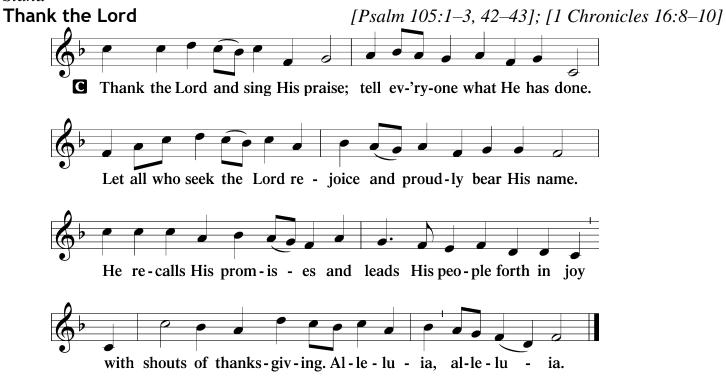
**C** Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 913 O Holy Spirit, Enter In



Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 861 Christ Be My Leader 0. 1 Christ be my Lead - er night as Safe through the by by day; 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or Death can - not 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; dark - ness, for He Glad - ly is the way. Ι fol - low. my doubt-ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt-ing hold me, for He nor fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je-sus is there. shift-ing as sand, Doubt can-not daunt me; in Je-sus I stand. and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je-sus I reign. sin Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: Irish Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763 Tune: Public domain Stand



## **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.



Benediction

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

and be gracious to you.

men.

Numbers 6:24–26

Closing Hymn with Cross Recession: 768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

During the Cross Recession, the ancient and laudable custom is to **bow your head** in reverence to Christ our King as the processional cross passes by your pew.

1 To Spir it God the Ho ly let us pray 2 O sweet - est Love, Your grace be stow; on us 3 Tran - scen - dent Com fort in our ev 'ry need, 4 Shine in our hearts, Ο Spir - it, pre - cious light;  $\mathbf{o}$ faith For the true need ed on our way -Set our hearts with sa cred fire glow a \_ -Help us nei \_ ther scorn nor death to heed Teach us Je sus Christ to know right a -That He when life is And from may de - fend us end - ing That with hearts u - nit ed we love each oth - er, Ev - 'ry That fal ter cour - age fail When the we may not nor us That a - bide the Lord who bought us, Till we may in to - $\overline{}$ θ ile home we are wend - ing. Lord. have mer - cv! ex strang - er, sis ter, and broth er. Lord, have mer - cy! shall Lord, have mer - cy! foe taunt and as sail us. \_ our true home He has brought us. Lord. have mer - cy!

Text: tr. Worship Supplement, 1969, alt.; (st. 1): German, c. 13th cent.; (sts. 2–4): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

Text:  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763 Tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. 5/28	<ul> <li>The Day of Pentecost</li> <li>Pastor Terry Nelson presiding</li> <li>Divine Service 9:30 a.m.</li> <li>Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>
Mon. 5/29	Memorial Day (church office closed)
Wed. 5/31	Serve Dinner at St. Paul, Pontiac 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul
Sat. 6/3	Men's Bible Study 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Sun. 6/4	The Holy Trinity Pastor Frank Pies presiding • Divine Service 9:30 a.m.

• Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## **TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – Everyone is welcome to join Pastor Nelson in the Fellowship Hall for Bible Study right after this morning's Divine Service (around 10:45 a.m.). Pastor Nelson will be teaching more in-depth on today's scripture readings. He would love to have you join him!

NEXT SUNDAY: THE HOLY TRINITY – We hope you will join us for worship next Sunday, **June 4** at 9:30 a.m., as we celebrate the The Holy Trinity. This is where we'll remember who God has revealed himself to be—one God, yet 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and it will include the confessing of the Athanasian Creed. Please make plans to join us!

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC DINNER THIS WEDNESDAY – St. Mark's Board of Human Care is seeking volunteers to help with providing dinner for St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac for their community outreach program this **Wednesday**, **May 31** around 5:00 p.m. Please check out the sign-up sheet in the lobby where you can sign up for various ways to help: donating food, preparing food, serving food at St. Paul, etc. Lots of help will be needed, so if you can, please sign up! Questions about this event can be directed to Karen Kaufman or Leslie Oehring.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CINDY PARKS – The family of Cindy Parks invites those who knew her to attend a short memorial service in her honor to be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on **Friday, June 2** at 1:30 p.m. Cindy was a long-time church member here at St. Mark's and she went to be with Jesus November 29 of last year. If you would like to pay your respects, her family would love to have you there.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS SATURDAY – Calling all men of St. Mark's! Our Men's Bible Study will resume this **Saturday, June 3**, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Our church member, Chris Gerard, has volunteered to lead the study using a series from Concordia Publishing House called "God's Word for Today," specifically the book called "Revelation: Worthy Is the Lamb." We hope you will join this study and learn more about the book of Revelation.

SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING ON JUNE 4 – All St. Mark's members ages 18+ are invited and encouraged to attend the upcoming Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting on **Sunday, June** 4. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall directly after the church service (around 11:00 a.m.). The main item on the Agenda will be to take a look at St. Mark's finances, as well as options for calling our next pastor. Please attend, if you can!

JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN <u>2023</u>! 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 <u>crafteddaily.com</u> for the reading plan.** 

ACCEPTING FREE-WILL OFFERINGS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - St. Mark's Vacation Bible School will take place here from **July 17 – 21** from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. In order to help offset the program costs, we will be receiving a free-will door offering each Sunday from **<u>now until mid-July</u>**. If you'd like to donate, you can either place cash in the offering plate near the sanctuary doors, or place a check made payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in that same plate. Just write "VBS" on your check. Thanks in advance for your support of this summer's VBS program where the kids are taught about Jesus' love for them!

REMEMBER YOUR DAD ON FATHER'S DAY - On **Sunday, June 18**, St. Mark's will remember dads in a special way. Each dad who attends church here on that day will receive a special treat in celebration of his role as a father. You may also make a donation to St. Mark's Flower Fund in honor, or in memory, of your father. Just complete a pink flower slip found in today's bulletin, place your donation (any amount) and this slip in a pink envelope (located in the pew racks), write "Father's Day" on the envelope, and put it into an offering plate **by June 11**. The names of these dads will then be listed in the Father's Day bulletin on June 18.

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!

REGISTRATION FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS NOW OPEN! This summer's Vacation Bible School program is called "God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace". Focusing on Jesus, the Living Water, this program stretches from creation to the Early Church, as believers experience the grace of God. All kids, age preschool (must be potty-trained) through those going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall, are welcome to attend this free and exciting program! It will take place from **July 17-21**, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The VBS registration form is now active on St. Mark's website: <u>www.stmarkwb.org</u>. We'll also need a lot of volunteers to assist with VBS. The roles we'll need volunteers for include:

- Snack Leader & Assistants
- Music Leader & Assistant
- Storytime Leader & Assistant
- Craft Assistants (Lynn Thomas has volunteered to lead crafts)
- Science/Games Leader & Assistant
- 2 Registration Table volunteers
- Transporters (stay with one age group of kids and help them get from one station to the next)

The Board of Family & Youth will also need volunteers to help with VBS set-up/decorating on **Sunday, July 16** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. A pizza dinner will be included for volunteers. Watch for a VBS Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet to appear in the lobby!

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

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 (<u>dswain001@yahoo.com</u>).

STARTING TO RECEIVE 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.

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 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" of the paper around the stamp.

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and <u>link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's</u> 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: <u>https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards</u>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

ST. PAUL, PONTIAC'S FOOD PANTRY IS GETTING LOW - This has been a crazy month at St. Paul Lutheran in Pontiac. So far, their food pantry has been visited by over 100 people as of May 9 with most of May yet to go (the pantry is only open on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays). This has caused their food supply to become very low. They are in great need of the following:

- Cereal
- Dried beans/peas
- Powdered Milk
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Canned Beans (Kidney, pinto, black, refried, baked)
- Pasta Sauce
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Pasta/Rice
- Mac n Cheese
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Soup
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Gravy
- Ramen Noodles
- Snack bars/Protein bars
- Personal items: Family size bar soap, hand soap, toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrush, deodorant, lotion, hand sanitizer, shampoo/conditioner and toilet paper.

St. Paul Lutheran is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. Fridays they are open only from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. If you'd like to donate some of the above items, you may either drop them off at St. Paul, or leave them in front of the plastic donation bins that are located on the bookshelves in our "2<sup>nd</sup>" lobby.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT RESEARCH FOR TYPE 1 DIABETES? If so, our church member, Joshua Cook, is seeking pledges for his upcoming One Day Bike Ride Across Michigan event on **August 12, 2023**. All funds will go to JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), the leading private funder for type 1 diabetes research. If you'd like to pledge, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board below the sanctuary stairs ASAP.

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** 

Minister Rev. Terry Nelson Pastor Emeritus formerly of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in South Lyon, MI

Altar Guild Elder on Duty Greeter(s) Offering Counters Organist Trumpeter Usher Video Technician (on hold for now) Debbie Sidelinker Charlie Powell Carolynn Taylor Nancy Salo & Carolynn Taylor Rob Wheeler Chris Gerard John Reardon N/A