

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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**"But when the Helper
comes, whom I will send
to you from the Father, the
Spirit of truth, who
proceeds from the Father,
he will bear witness about
me. And you also will bear
witness, because you have
been with me from the
beginning.
John 15:26-27**

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

(Exaudi)

21 May A✠D 2023

Divine Service, Setting I

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter. On this day, we remember the hope that we have in Christ in the face of all hostility and persecution. As the Church, Jesus sends us out into an unbelieving world to witness to His salvation, a task which often brings suffering. However, whenever we suffer for Christ we can cling to Him, rejoicing for the opportunity to share in His sufferings, while taking comfort in the eternal victory which He has won.

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: 913 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The hymn is divided into three systems, each with three lines of lyrics. The first system begins with a three-measure rest for the first line of lyrics. The second system begins with a two-measure rest. The third system begins with a two-measure rest. The hymn concludes with a double bar line.

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts
2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,

Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing

Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love

us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.
and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.

That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing
Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er

Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.
And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

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

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 27:1, 11a, 12; antiphon: vv. 7a, 8b, 9a

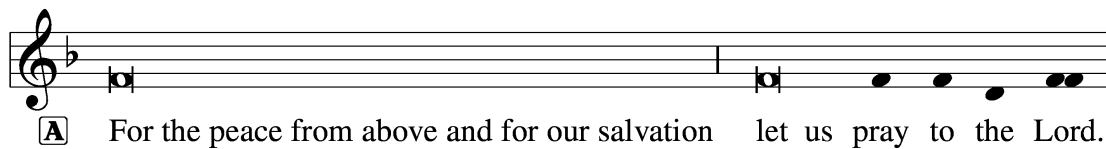
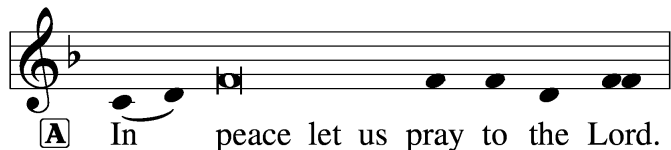
- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.
Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.
- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- C** **Teach me your way, O LORD;**
give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
- P** for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

**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** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud. Alleluia.
Your face, LORD, do I seek; hide not your face from me. Alleluia.

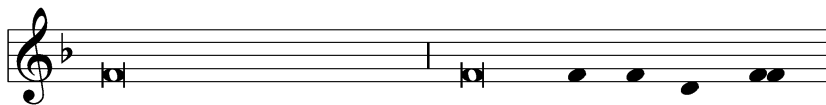
Kyrie

Mark 10:47





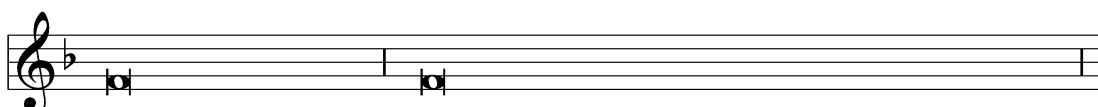
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



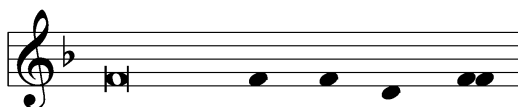
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



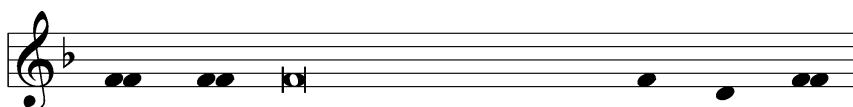
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



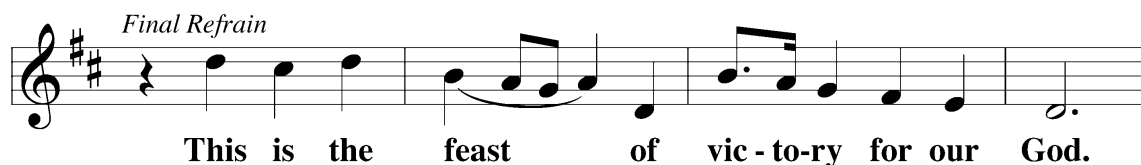
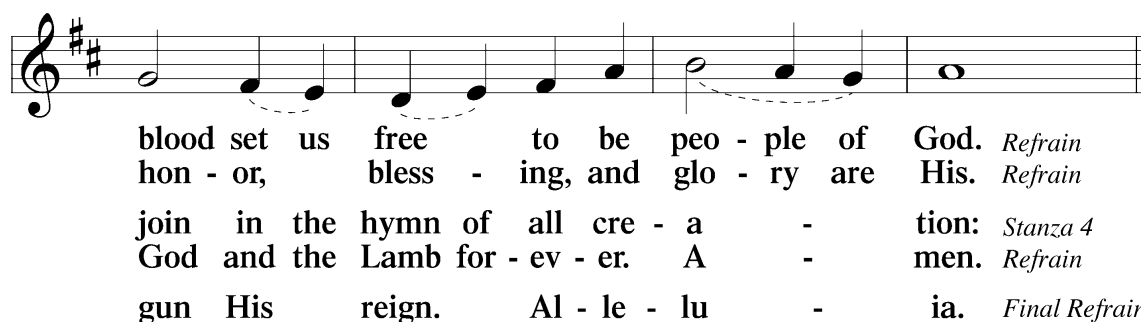
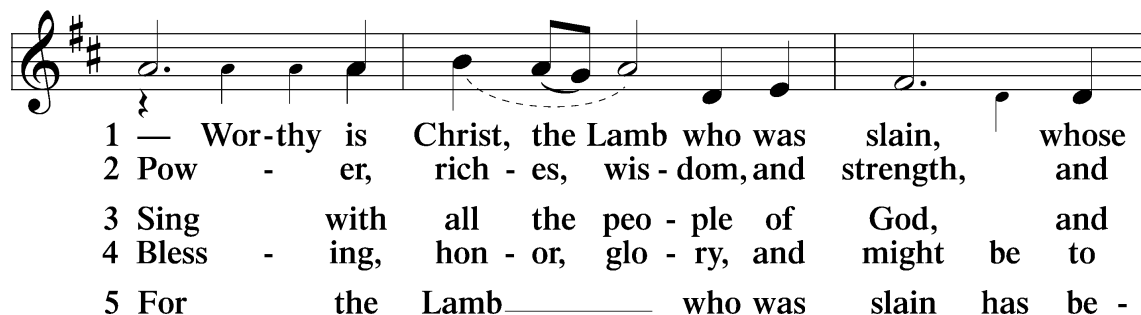
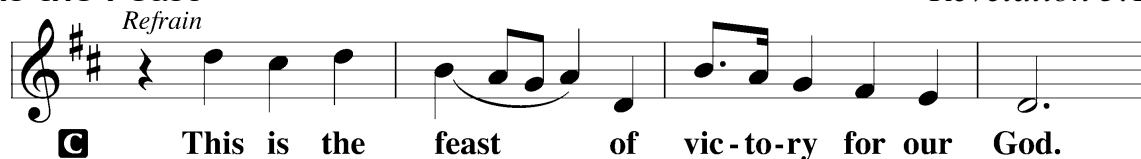
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



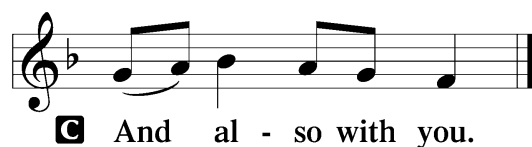
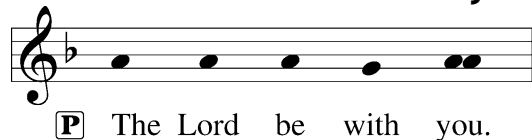
C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 36:22–28

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees. ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 47:8; John 14:18a, 28; 16:22b

During the celebration of Easter, the Gradual is omitted and the Verse is expanded.

P Alleluia. God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. Alleluia.

C I will not leave you as orphans;
I am going away, and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:7–14

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves

by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:26—16:4

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 539 Christ Is the World's Redeemer



1 Christ is the world's Re - deem - er, The lov - er of the pure,
2 Christ has our host sur - round - ed With clouds of mar - tyrs bright,
3 Down through the realm of dark - ness He strode in vic - to - ry,
△ 4 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, The un - be - got - ten One,

The font of heav'n-ly wis - dom, Our trust and hope se - cure,
Who wave their palms in tri - umph And fire us for the fight.
And at the hour ap - point - ed He rose tri - um - phant-ly.
All hon - or be to Je - sus, His sole - be - got - ten Son,

The ar - mor of His sol - diers, The Lord of earth and sky,
Then Christ the cross as - cend - ed To save a world un - done
And now, to heav'n as - cend - ed, He sits up - on the throne
And to the Ho - ly Spir - it— The per - fect Trin - i - ty.

Our health while we are liv - ing, Our life when we shall die.
And, suf - f'ring for the sin - ful, Our full re - demp - tion won.
Whence He had ne'er de - part - ed, His Fa - ther's and His own.
Let all the worlds give an - swer: A - men! So let it be.

Text: attr. Columba, 521–597; tr. Duncan MacGregor, 1854–1923, alt.

Tune: Irish

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the Lord may guard and protect His Church, so that she may be kept faithful in the face of temptation and persecution; and that she would be made fruitful in the work she does in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the Lord would raise up faithful pastors for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; that He would give us faithful men and women to be teachers, musicians, deaconesses and directors of Christian education and outreach; and that, as Matthias was set apart for service, these also may serve for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may grow in the knowledge of God's Word and be faithful teachers of that Word to our children and those not yet of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the nations would enjoy peace, goodwill, an end to terror and bloodshed, and freedom from tyranny; and that our leaders would be faithful in their service for the protection of life and the pursuit of all that is just and good, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our land and our people, that we may be shielded from pestilence, drought and hunger, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the sick would be healed, the suffering relieved, the grieving comforted and the dying granted peace [*especially we pray for _____*]; and that the Lord would strengthen them in their weakness, grant patience in their trials and give them endurance for the race set before them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who receive the body and blood of Christ, that they would have the peace that surpasses understanding, the gladness that no man can take from them and the hope that does not fade away, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks that through Your Holy Spirit You have appointed us to bear witness to Your dear Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Since the world cannot endure this testimony and persecutes us in every way, encourage and comfort us, we implore You, that we would not be offended by these crosses, but continue steadfast in Your testimony and be found always among those who know You and Your Son until we 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 in your pew.

Stand
Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

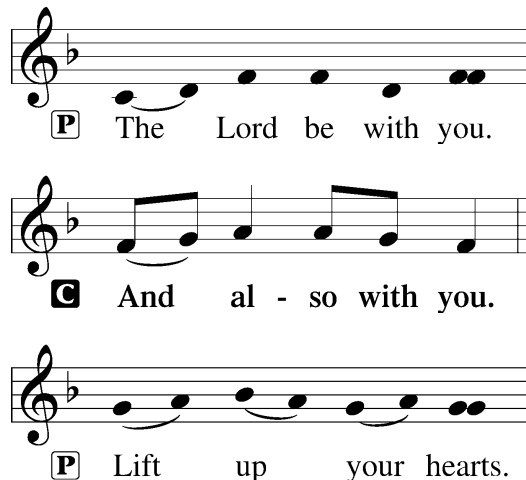


C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple,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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

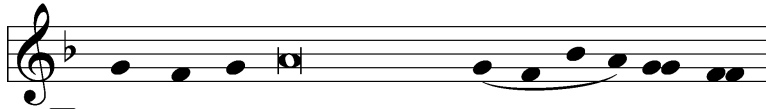
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



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 after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine 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 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.

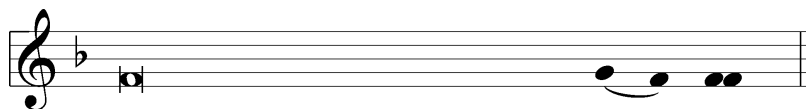
The Words of Our Lord

- 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.



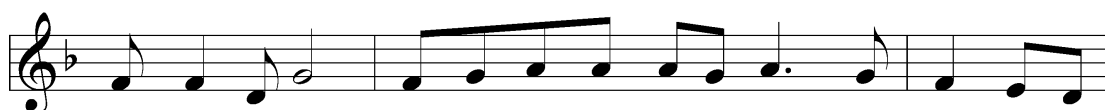
C A - men.

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.

In dismissing the communicants, the Pastor says the following:

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: 728 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
 5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when

hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,

May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Stand

Thank the Lord

[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

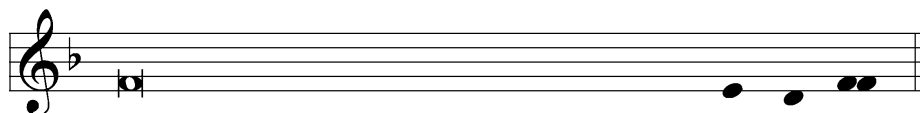
P Let us pray.

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

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.



Closing Hymn: 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contradanseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 5/21** **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer, Pastor
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Wed. 5/24** **FINAL NIGHT! 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/Life Skills Time** 6:15 – 6:45 p.m.
- Thu. 5/25** **Quilting Bee** 10:00 a.m.
- Fri. 5/26** **June's Newsletter Distribution**
- Sun. 5/28** **The Day of Pentecost**
Rev. Terry Nelson presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PASTORAL VACANCY UPDATE – St. Mark's Call Committee will meet again this **Wednesday, May 24**, at 7:00 p.m. to take a look at our congregation's financial position in order to help the voters at our June 4 Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting determine which direction we should go in calling our next pastor. If you are on the Call Committee, please make a point of attending the May 24 meeting. Thank you.

UPCOMING FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS AT ST. MARK'S – We hope you will join for worship as we celebrate these upcoming high festival days at St. Mark's:

- **May 28** – The Day of Pentecost (when Jesus, having already ascended to his Father in heaven, sent down His Holy Spirit on the Church so that we might know the Truth of the Gospel and spread it abroad into the nations)
- **June 4** – The Holy Trinity (when we remember who God has revealed himself to be—one God, yet 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit) including the confessing of the Athanasian Creed

Both of these Divine Services will start at 9:30 a.m. and will feature some of the best-loved hymns. Please make plans to join us!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ST. PAUL, PONTIAC DINNER – 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 on **Wednesday, May 31** around 5pm. 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.

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 in order to determine which way we should go in calling our next pastor. Please attend, if you can!

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. The reading schedule for 2023 is laid out differently than the schedule for 2022. You can pick up at any time. **Please visit crafteddaily.com 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 **today until mid-July**. 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!

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 5th 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: www.stmarkwb.org! 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 this week in the lobby!

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.

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.

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!

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 (dswain001@yahoo.com).

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.

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.**

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.

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 "2nd" lobby.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer

Pastor Emeritus, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland, MI

Altar Guild

Debbie Sidelinker

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Ellen Rentola

Offering Counters

Nancy Salo & Carolynn Taylor

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

Matt Maier

Video Technician (on hold for now)

N/A