

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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## The Third Sunday after Trinity

25 June A✠D 2023

*Divine Service, Setting IV*

## ✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Third Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider the depth of God's mercy toward those who stray. As we live in this world, the devil is always trying to draw us away from God back into a life of sin and condemnation. However, no matter how far we may wander, on account of Christ, God is always willing to receive us back when we repent and "there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Therefore, we rejoice in His love, and return to Him whenever we fall.

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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

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

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

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

*Kneel/Stand*

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

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

**C** Amen.

Stand

# Hymn of Invocation: 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Stanzas 1-4



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Word

## Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 25:1–2a, 5b, 15, 20; antiphon: vv. 16, 18*

**P** Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

**C** Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.

**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** You are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

**P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**C** Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

**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** Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

**C** Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



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

## Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



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



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



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



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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Micah 7:18–20*

<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.

<sup>19</sup>He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup>You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and steadfast love to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our fathers  
from the days of old.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalms 55:22a, 16, 18a*

**P** Cast your burden on the LORD,  
and he will sustain you.

**C** I call to God, and the LORD will save me.  
He redeems my soul in safety.

## Epistle

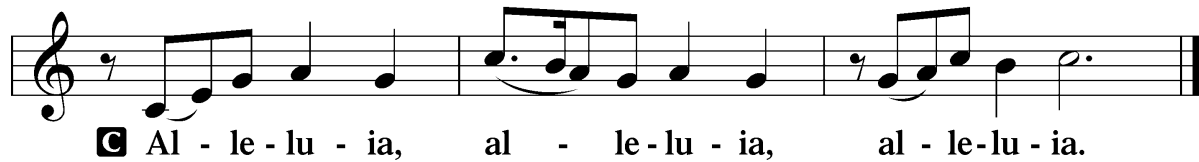
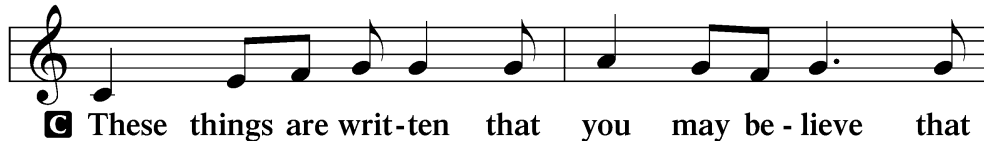
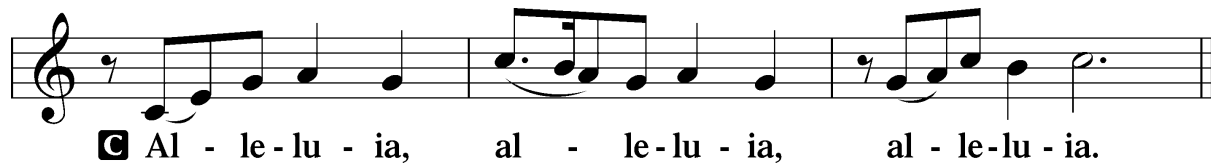
*1 Timothy 1:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup>though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*  
**Alleluia and Verse**



**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 15:1-10*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## Nicene Creed

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

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

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

*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day: 710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me  
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I  
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence  
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He  
walk doth make With - in the paths of  
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,  
of my foes; My head Thou dost with  
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh

Tune: William Gardiner, 1770–1853

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who have wandered from the safety of the fold of the Church and have grieved the heart of their heavenly Father and of their brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may return to His house and the joy of the Savior who came to die for lost sheep, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For godly homes, that parents would teach their children to love God, obey His voice and hold fast to Him for life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those in office, especially our president, congressmen and judges, that our Father from whom all fatherhood is named would make their authority respected and honored by all and lead them to use it according to its institution for the sake of those under their care, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our brotherhood throughout the world who suffer persecution for the sake of Christ, that although called to endure suffering, they may be assured that God Himself will restore, confirm and establish them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who suffer, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may be strengthened by their Baptism, and that the Son who therein laid them on His shoulders rejoicing would bear them safely home through their trials to the joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For repentant boldness to come to Christ's table where He eats with sinners and receives them, that in this feast we may obtain forgiveness and life through His body and blood, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You crown us with steadfast love and mercy in Your Son. While we live amid many troubles in this sinful world, remind us by Your Word that You do not deal with us according to our iniquities, but are merciful and gracious to us. Call us to repentance and faith, that we may take up our crosses daily and follow You; through 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.*

# Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

## Preface

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

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

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

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

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

## Lord's Prayer

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

## The Words of Our Lord

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

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

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*

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

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution

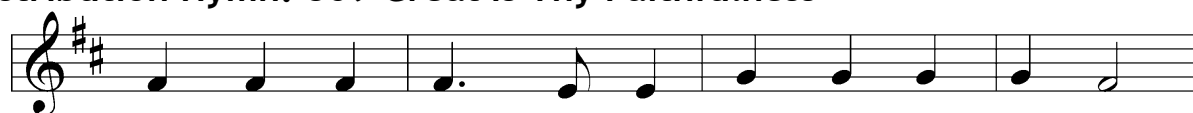
*Visitors – Please see the note on the inside, front cover of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.*

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**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: 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



*Refrain*  
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

## Distribution Hymn: 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;  
 2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,  
 3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,  
 Δ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;  
 The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,  
 The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.  
 To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day  
 Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood  
 His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,  
 The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.  
 And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.  
 Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.  
 God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain



*Stand*  
**Nunc Dimittis**

*Luke 2:29–32*

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

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

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

**C** Amen.

**Benedicamus**

*Psalm 103:1*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

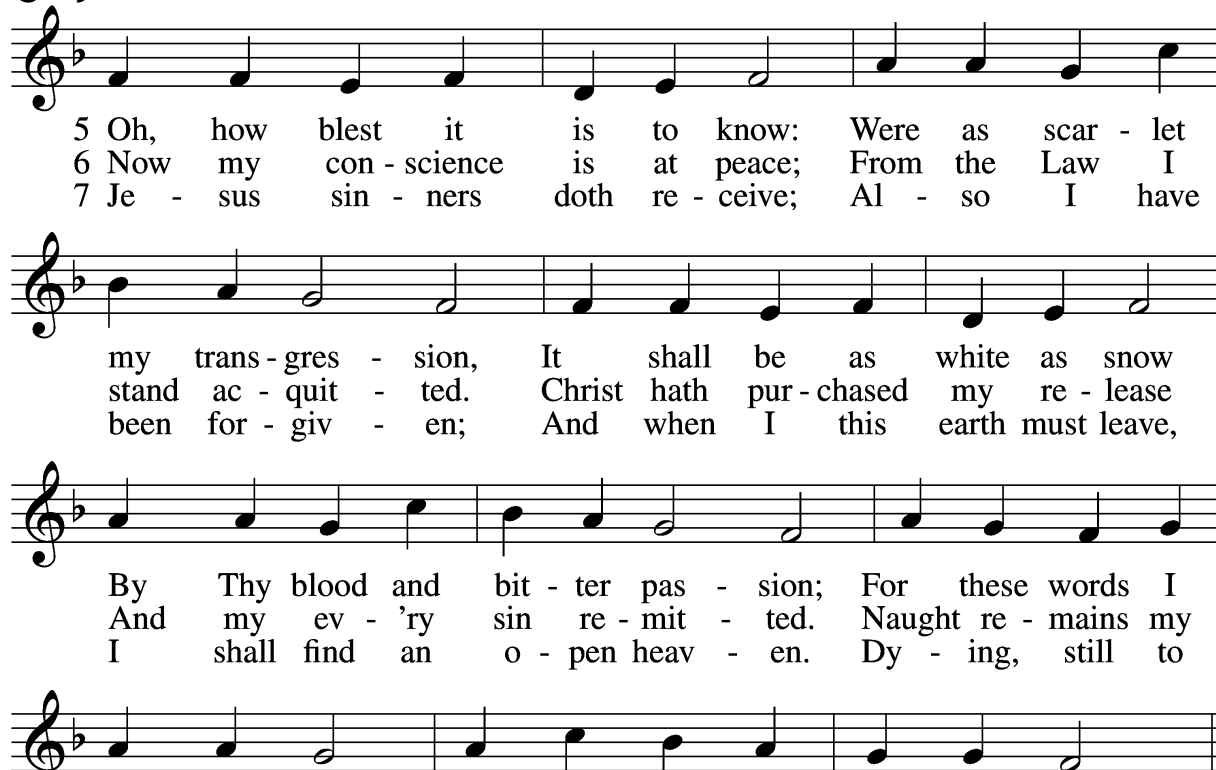
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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

## Closing Hymn: 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

*Stanzas 5-7*



5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let  
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I  
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have  
my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow  
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease  
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,  
By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I  
And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my  
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to  
now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756  
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

### Acknowledgments

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sun. 6/25     The Third Sunday after Trinity**  
**Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding**  
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.  
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Sun. 7/2     The Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding**  
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.  
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Our next Men's Bible Study will take place on **Saturday, July 8** from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Attendees will continue to look at the Book of Daniel, as well as Revelation. If you missed June's Study, don't worry! You can pick up and join this group at any time! A light breakfast will be provided for those attendees who might be hungry.

**QUILTING BEE ON HIATUS UNTIL AUGUST** – St. Mark's ladies' Quilting Bee group will be on hiatus from now until **Thursday, August 3**. On that date, quilting will meet at 10:00 a.m. and also on each subsequent Thursday at that time.

**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!

**JOIN US IN READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2023!** For us Christians, there is no greater joy than meditating on the Holy Scriptures, for there God proclaims to us the Truth of Christ, so that in Him we might have life! With this in mind, the Board of Elders invites you to join in with other congregations in our Circuit by reading through the entire Bible in 2023. You can pick up at any time. **Please visit [crafteddaily.com](https://crafteddaily.com) for the reading plan.**

**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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS:

- Name of Curriculum: “God’s Living Water: Covered in Jesus’ Grace”
- For Ages: Preschool (must be potty-trained) through those going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall
- Dates: **July 17-21**
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon.
- Register kids at: [www.stmarkwb.org](http://www.stmarkwb.org).
- How to volunteer: Sign up on poster board in the lobby
- Set-up & Decorate: **Sunday, July 16** from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. A pizza dinner will be included for volunteers.
- Clean-up and take down: **Friday, July 21** around 12:30 p.m.

PLEASE consider helping, if you haven’t already signed up to do so! Thank you!

ACCEPTING A FREE-WILL DOOR OFFERING FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - In order to help offset the cost of this summer’s VBS program, we will be receiving a free-will door offering each Sunday from **now 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!

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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY – The church office will be closed for the Independence Day holiday on Monday and Tuesday, **July 3 & 4**.

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!

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

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 1/4" 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.**







## SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Rodney Zwonitzer

*Pastor Emeritus*

Altar Guild

Karen Kaufman & Sandy Krus

Elder on Duty

Darryl Swainson

Greeter(s)

Gail Fitzgerald

Offering Counters

Nancy Hewson & Joanne Wisti

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter

Chris Gerard

Usher

John Reardon

Video Technician (on hold for now)

N/A