



Growing God's Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church · Rev. Mark Erler

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March 5, 2023
8:15 a.m. Service

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**WE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO THE VISITORS AND GUESTS AMONG US.
WE PRAY THAT TODAY'S SERVICE IS A BLESSING TO YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN!**

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER: We are celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar today. This is The Lord's Table. As a church and body of Christians we believe this:

We will be receiving the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, in, with and under, the bread and wine.

When we receive Jesus' true body and blood, we receive the forgiveness of sins.

By communing together with our Lord and one another, we express a common belief that Jesus is in truth the Son of God, and our Savior; He is present in this Sacrament in a very real way; that Christ's sacrificial death assures us of complete forgiveness of our sins; and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a life that honors God.

If you share all these convictions, then you are welcome to come and celebrate the blessings of our Altar today. Please note that cups at the center of each tray are "non-alcoholic" wine for those who prefer such for medicinal and personal reasons. Pastor Erler is available before service if you have any questions.

A **NURSERY** with an attendant is available during worship service. You are welcome to use this service. Ask an usher for directions.

PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

BEFORE WORSHIP

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.

BEFORE COMMUNING

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

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.**

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.

G Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

(Introit-is Latin for "entrance", this is where the minister moves up to the altar. The words for the Introit come from the Psalms.)

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

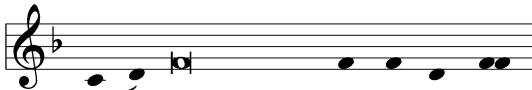
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

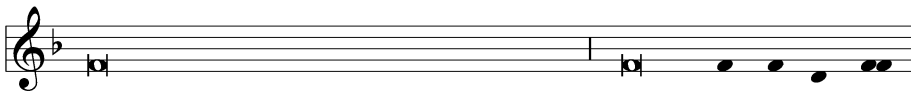
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



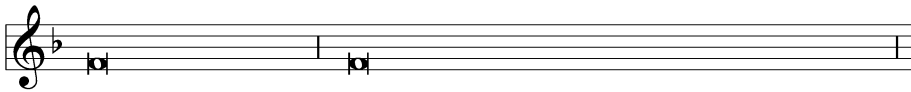
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

(Salutation and Collect-Before the collect, or prayer of the day, a salutation or a wish of blessing is shared between the Pastor and congregation. 2 Timothy 4:22 "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." The collects are a collection of prayers that have been used by the church throughout the years.)



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

(Gradual-Latin for "steps" since we are leading up to the Gospel, this is a quote from scripture.)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

Abraham Justified by Faith

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." . . .

The Promise Realized Through Faith

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Verse for Lent



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

(Gospel Lesson-words of Christ or words about his life. We stand and sing the versicles which were used as passwords in the early church. Matthew 22:15-21)

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

You Must Be Born Again

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Please stand

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.**

Prayer of the Church

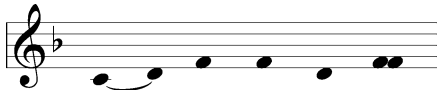
The Pastor will end each petition with the phrase, "Lord in your mercy."

The Congregation will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

(Preface-Sharing of the blessing and introduces us to the Eucharist, Greek for "Thanksgiving.")



P The Lord be with you.



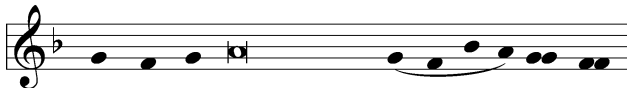
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

Sanctus

(Sanctus-Latin for "holy" and comes from Is. 6:2-3 "Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory" and Mt. 21:9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!)

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.

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."

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

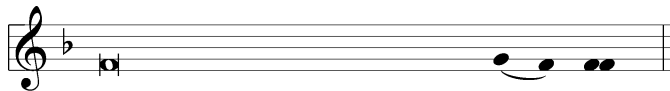
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

(Pax Domini-means "Peace of God." Jn. 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!")



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



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



G 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.

Please be seated

Please note:

St. Mark Lutheran Church is a congregation and a body of Christians believing firmly God's Word which says that in Holy Communion we truly and really receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus as we receive the earthly elements of bread and wine. His body and blood *are not symbolically present or spiritually received*, but real and tangible *in* the bread and wine, *with* the bread and wine, *under the bread and wine by the authority of Jesus' words*, and given to us as His pledge of love and forgiveness.

Holy Communion is a gift of God intended for those who have been baptized and confirmed in the Christian Faith. Within our Lutheran Church, we ask that a confirmation be done according to our Lutheran understanding. It is imperative, according to 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, for a communicant to spiritually examine himself before coming to the Lord's Table.

A brief examination would include answering "Yes" to the following five questions:

Do you believe that you are a sinner by nature and by choice?

Are you truly sorry for your sins?

Do you believe Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior from sin Who graciously forgives your sins?

Do you intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit to make the needed changes in your sinful life?

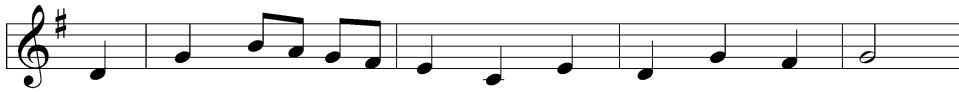
Do you believe you receive the true body and blood of Jesus in, with, and under the bread and wine?

Distribution

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

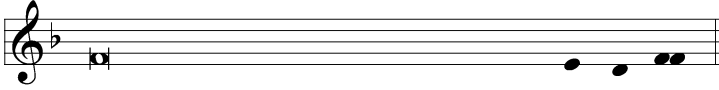
A Let us pray.

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



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
 shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

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