St. Mark Lutheran
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church · **Rev. Mark Erler**
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April 16, 2023
8:15 a.m. Service

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 by Mary Sutter in memory of her father Harry Underberg.

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

480 He's Risen, He's Risen

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.
Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87
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Please stand

℗ In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

℃ Amen.

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

℃ 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.

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

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

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

℃ 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.)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

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.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

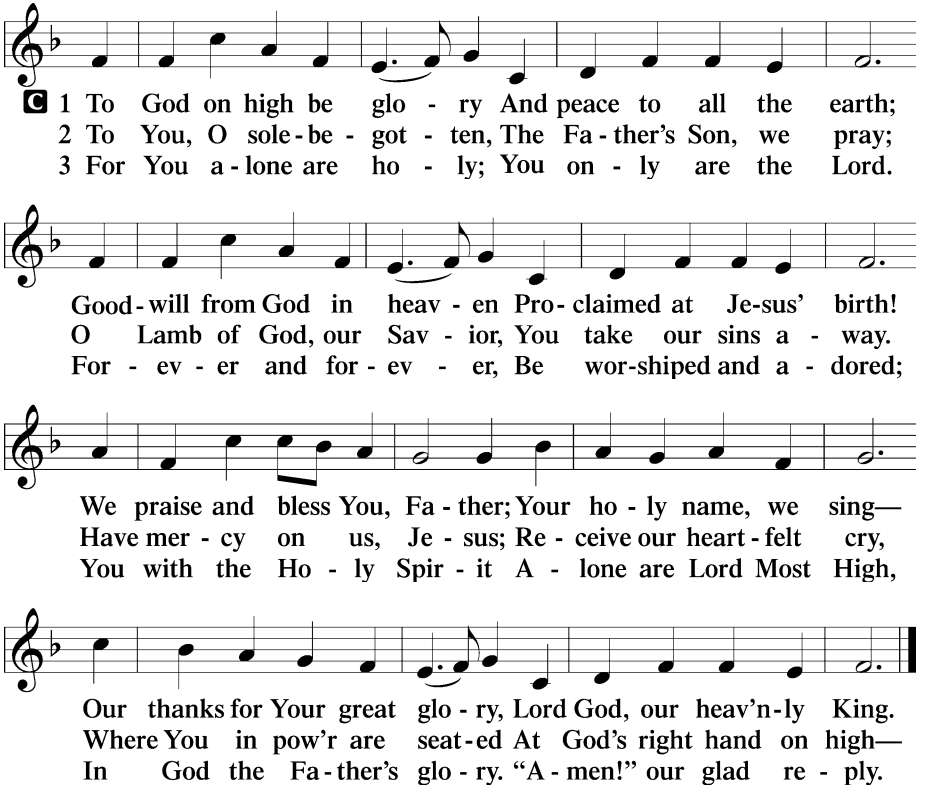
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis



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 also with you.**

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading *Acts 5:29–42*

[29]But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. [30]The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. [31]God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. [32]And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

[33]When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. [34]But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. [35]And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. [36]For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. [37]After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. [38]So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; [39]but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, [40]and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41]Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. [42]And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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.)

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle *1 Peter 1:3–9*

Born Again to a Living Hope

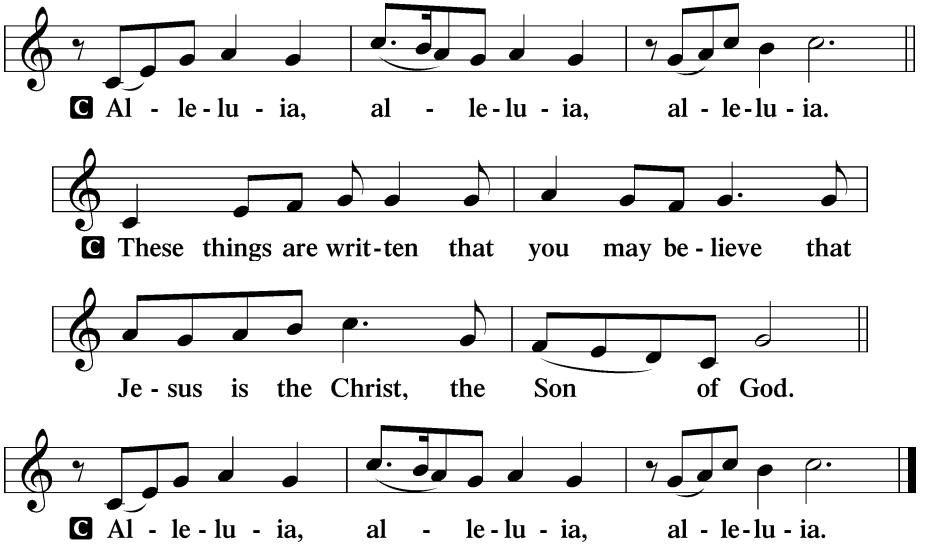
[3]Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great
mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead, [4]to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5]who by God's power are being guarded through
faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6]In this you rejoice, though
now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, [7]so that the
tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is
tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation
of Jesus Christ. [8]Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now
see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with
glory, [9]obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel *John 20:19–31*

(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 twentieth chapter.

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

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

19On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked
where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and
said to them, "Peace be with you." 20When he had said this, he showed them his hands
and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them
again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22And
when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
23If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from
anyone, it is withheld."

Jesus and Thomas

24Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus
came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them,
"Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of
the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace
be with you." 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and
put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28Thomas
answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because
you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not
written in this book; 31but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the
Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

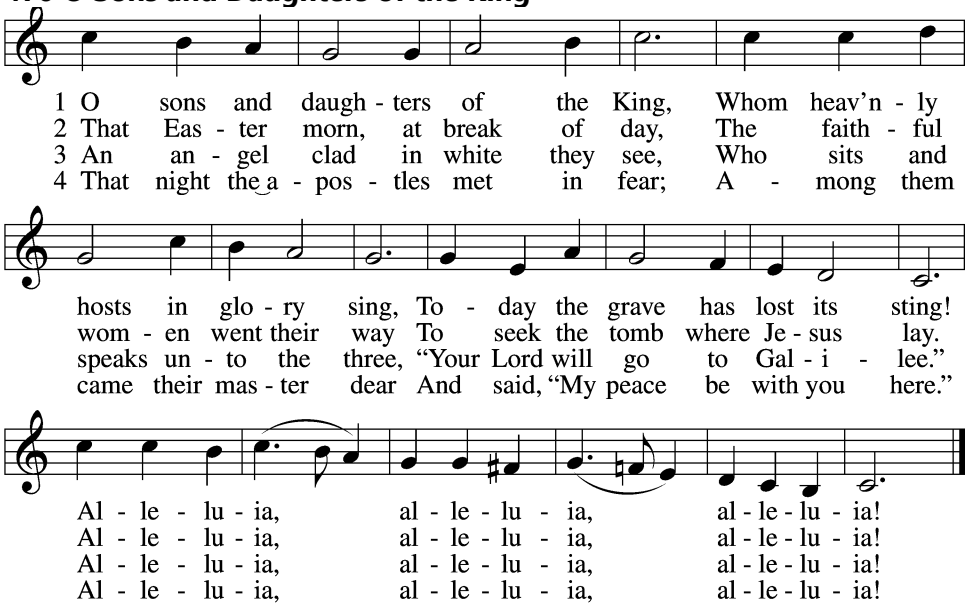
C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

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

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

Please be seated

470 O Sons and Daughters of the King



5 When Thomas first the tidings heard
That they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days
Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Please stand

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 also with you.**

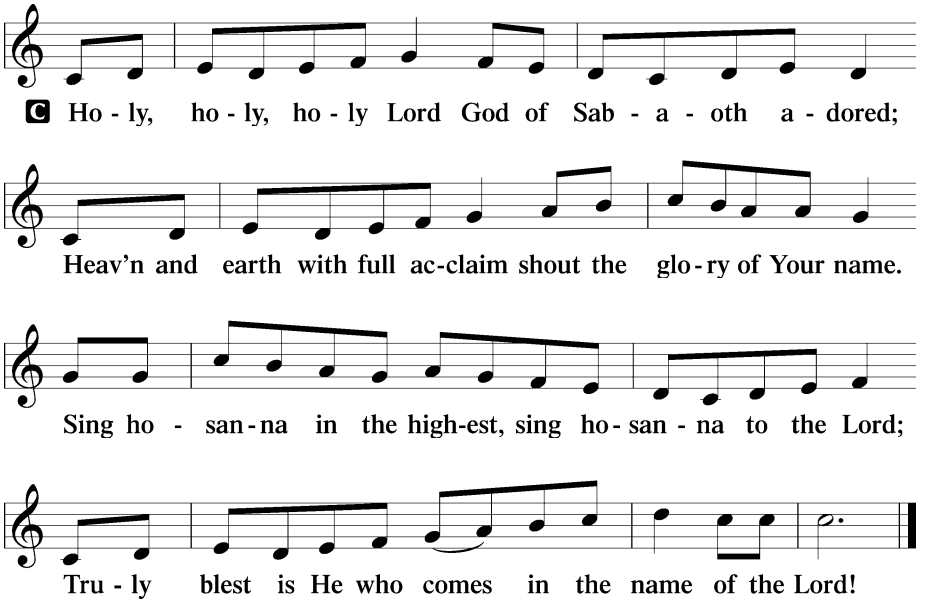
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

(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!)



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.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

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."

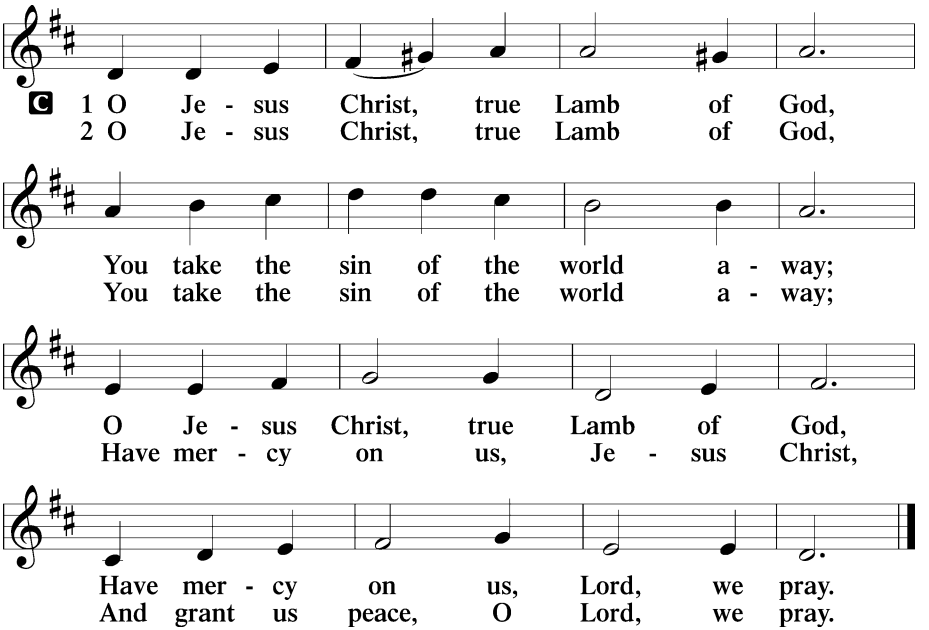
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

(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 always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei



Please be seated

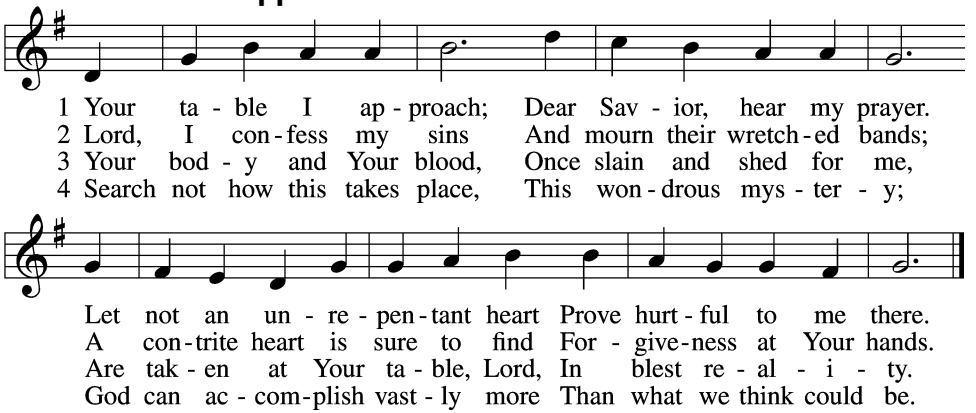
Please note:
St. Mark Lutheran Church is a congregation and a body of Christians believing firmly God's Word which says that in Holy Communion we truly and really receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus as we receive the earthly elements of bread and wine. His body and blood *are not symbolically 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

628 Your Table I Approach



5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis

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 **Amen.**

Benedicamus

A 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.**

490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

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