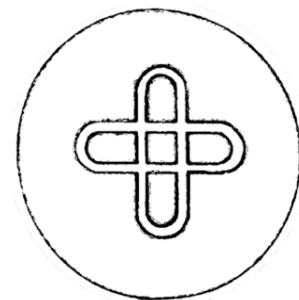


# St Mark Lutheran Church

## Service *of* Holy Communion



*Welcome to this divine service of worship!*

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

**Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.**

*The obelisk ( † ) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.*

*The double obelisk ( ‡ ) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.*

Uniting in Worship + Growing in Wisdom + Serving in Love  
*to embrace all in response to God.*

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*March 23, 2025: Third Sunday in Lent*

*9:00am & 11:00am*

**Prelude:** *As the Deer*

*Nystrom/Kocijan*

### Preparation for Our Liturgy

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### ‡Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
let us sit or kneel and confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, my siblings in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, my siblings in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

†Hymn: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

*Text: William Williams, 1717-1791*

*Tune: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1872-1932*

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

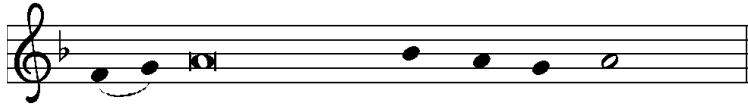
bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

†Greeting & Kyrie

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



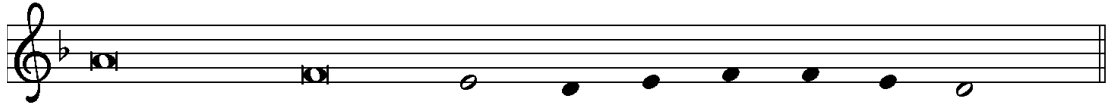
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



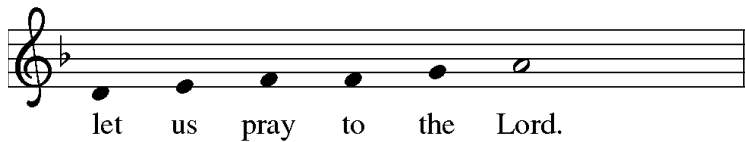
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



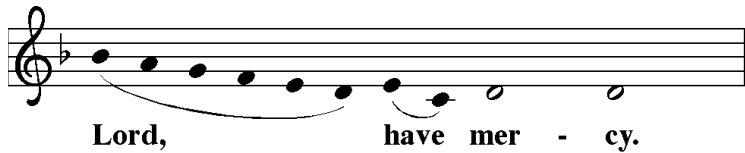
Lord, have mer - cy.



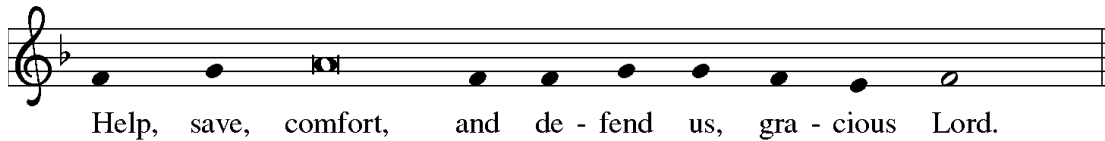
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### †Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### First Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-9*

A reading from Isaiah:

Ho, Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 63:1-8*



O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul | thirsts for you,  
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there | is no water.  
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.

For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.  
So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.

**My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,  
when I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

**For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.  
My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

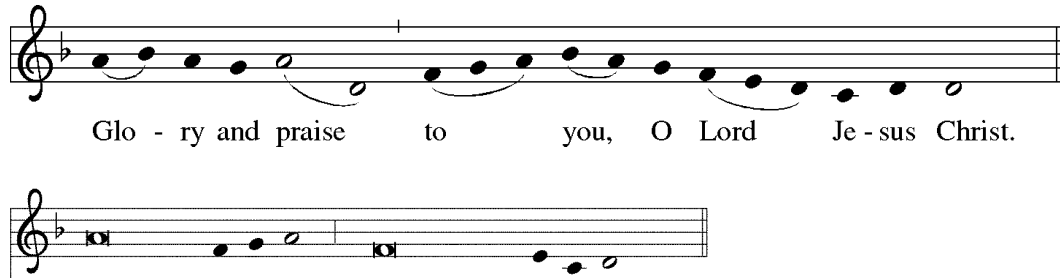
## Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

A reading from First Corinthians:

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

†Lenten Acclamation



**Jesus began | to proclaim,  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven | has come near.**

†Gospel: *Luke 13:1-9*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Pastor Joel Neübauer*

†Hymn: *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

*Text: Erik Routley, 1917-1982*  
*Tune: GALILEE, W H Jude, 1851-1922*

stanza 3 sung by choir



1. All who love and serve your ci - ty, all who bear
2. In your day of loss and sor - row, in your day
3. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast-ed work
4. For all days are days of judg - ment, and the Lord
5. Ris-en Lord, shall yet the ci - ty be the ci -



its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
of help - less strife, hon - or, peace and love re -  
and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of  
is wait - ing still, draw-ing near a world that  
ty of des - pair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,  
treat - ing, seek the Lord who is your life.  
Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."  
spurns him, off - ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.  
glo - ry. Be its name, "The Lord is there!"



†Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## ‡Prayers of Intercession

*Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, councils, congregations and synods, that they may call upon you in making faithful decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts, including.... God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our congregation, called to welcome our neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, gardens, kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.***

## †Peace and Offering

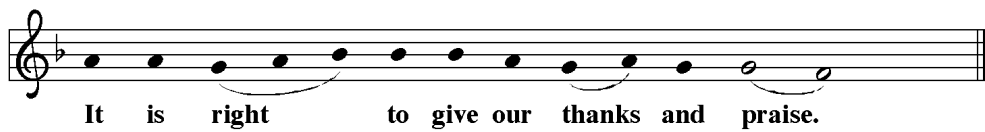
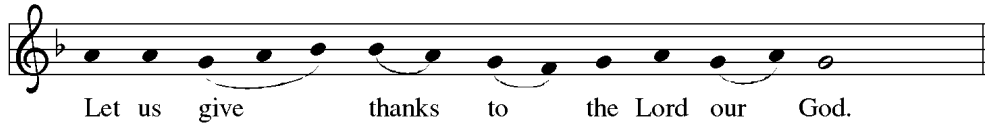
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!*

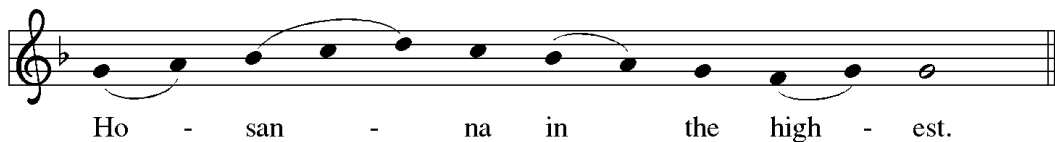
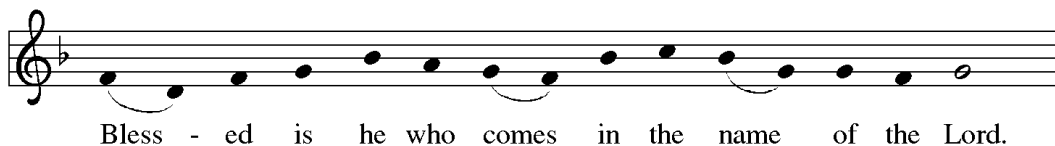
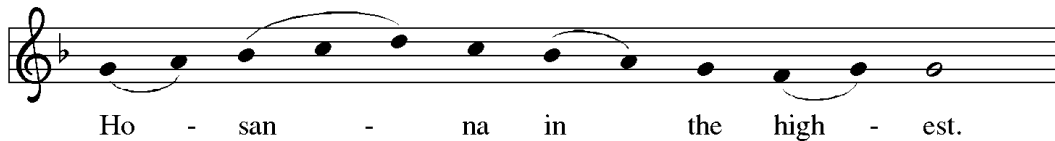
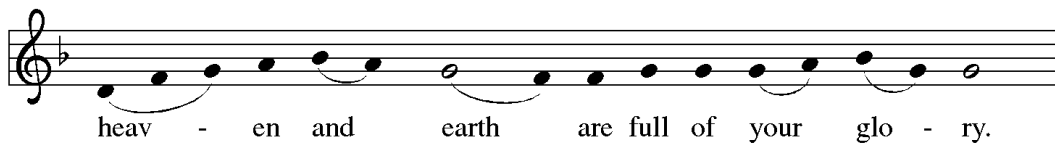
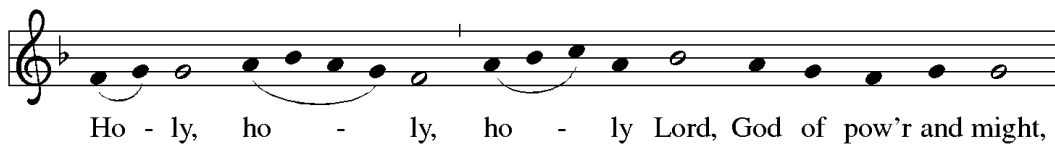


Merciful Maker, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



God, creator of communion, companion in confinement:  
you are with us as a parent to face your child's arrest,  
you are with us as a cellmate to share our chains,  
you are with us as a breath of freedom to release a breath we hold in fear.  
That you are with us here, for always being God with us, we thank you.

Just before he was arrested, in the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus' freedom and confinement, life and death, resurrection and ascension,  
we await the liberation of our lives in the rising of his gracious justice and righteous peace.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Set free your Holy Spirit on us and on this simple bread and cup,  
that we may freely embrace Jesus' body and blood in, with and under this communion.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ — incarcerated once and ever exonerated —  
you are exalted, Our Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit:  
One God, with glory and honor in your Holy Church, both now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

### †Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Thanks be to God.**



†Hymn: ***Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock***

*Text: Herbert F. Brokering*

*Tune: ZACHARY WOODS ROCK, Rusty Edwards*



1 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The wind, the waves are high. You hold me  
 2 Praise, praise! You are my rock. My des - ert sand is dry. You break the  
 3 Praise, praise! You are my rock, the cor - ner-stone of love. You are the  
 4 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You calm the fear and pain. One word of  
 5 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You host the ta - ble set. We break the  
 6 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The Eas - ter grave is sealed; you roll the  
 7 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You stood high on a hill. A ho - ly



when the waves are strong. You hold me lest I die, I  
 rock, a riv - er flows. You hear me when I cry, I  
 mer - cy of all life, the prince of peace, the light - ing  
 faith and I am well, I rise to praise and walk a -  
 bread, we drink the cup; we know whom we have met, have  
 stone— you, God, a - lone— then sin and death are healed, are  
 cloud: you are on high. Be still, my heart, be still, be



die. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 cry. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 dove. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 gain. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 met. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 healed. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.  
 still. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

†Dismissal— *from 3 John 1:2*

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with each one of you, and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices eucharistic hospitality. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Christ's body and blood; all people are welcomed to receive God's blessing in the love and life of Jesus for you today and always.*

*We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands with rubbing alcohol, the pastor will dip the host into the cup and offer the bread and wine together; to receive the host without wine, please inform the pastor with words or by placing a hand on your chest. Truly Christ is fully present in each element separately. Christ is for you.*

*Communicants will come forward to the feast in continuous procession.*

## PJ's reflection on the Gospel

When Jesus heard of Galileans killed  
by Pilate's hand, it wasn't for their sin  
he said they died: not God, but Pilate willed  
them dead. Unless things change, he'll kill again.  
When Jesus heard Judeans had been smashed  
as towers of their Holy City fell,  
he said our crumbling capital was trashed  
by us, not God, so change—or fall as well.  
Then Jesus spoke in simile and said  
you're acting like a man who looks to blame  
a tree—unfertilized!—for seeming dead  
instead of feeding it: you're all the same—  
and not in need of gossip, rumors or  
harsh judgment. Change! for grace you need much more.

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