

St Mark Lutheran Church

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

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, and the double obelisk (‡) to sit or kneel, as it is able.

October 25 2026, Reformation Sunday

9:00am & 11:00am

Prelude: (9:00) *Salvation unto Us Has Come*
(11:00) *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Walter Pelz
Kevin McChesney

Preparation for Worship

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 — *based on a prayer of Martin Luther*

We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

‡ Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. **My Lord, fill it.**

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

**I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

**I do not have a strong and firm faith;
at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.**

O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to my poverty.

I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness.

**Therefore I will remain with you,
of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

†Hymn: ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** Text & Tune: M Luther, EIN FESTE BURG 1483-1546
Arrangement: John Ferguson

first and last stanzas: all voices

middle stanzas: choir voices



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

†Greeting

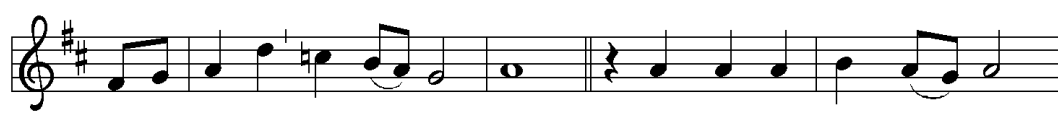
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

†Canticle of Praise — continues onto following page

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

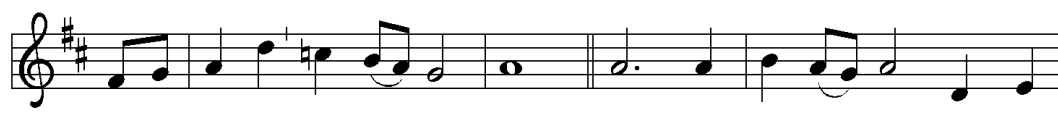


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

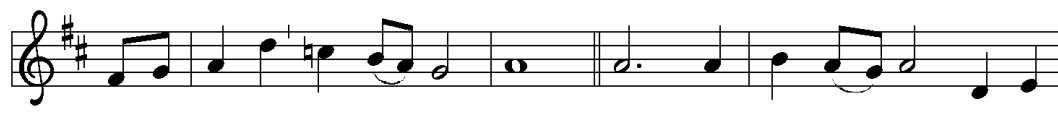


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



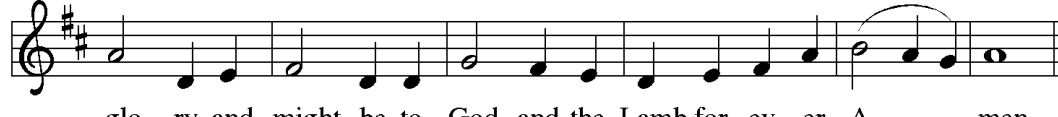
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

†Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

A reading from Leviticus:

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

*God is our refuge, a present help in trouble, therefore we will not fear,
though the earth shall move, and mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
though its waters rage, and though the mountains tremble,
here there is a river whose streams make glad the city of our God,
the holy house of the Most High, God Most High.*

*God resides in the city; it shall not be o'ercome;
God shall help at the break of day,
though nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks and melts the earth.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

*Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
regard what desolations God has wrought upon the earth;
behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
behold the one who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.*

*Be still, then, and fear your God; give glory to the lord.
God shall help at the break of day, and lead us through the night.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

A reading from First Thessalonians:

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

†Gospel Acclamation

Text: Nikolai FS Gruntvig, 1783-1872

Tune: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483-1546



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;

to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.

Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while

time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

†Gospel: **Matthew 22:34-46**

Alleluia! The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord. Alleluia!**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Joel Neubauer

The gospel passage we share in worship today is appointed for October 25, 2026 as the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost. The gospel text more specific to Reformation Day is John 8:31-36 — which the choir will share as we commune.

†Hymn: *Salvation unto Us Has Come*

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484-1551

Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL, Wittenberg, 1524

first stanza: all voices



- 1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;
- 2 What God did in the law de - mand no one could keep un - fail - ing;
- 3 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made and brought to us sal - va - tion,
- 4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un - ceas - ing;



good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us
great woe a - rose on ev - 'ry hand, and sin grew all - pre -
we will re - joice, we will be glad and build on this foun -
and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope in -



nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for
vail - ing. Be - cause the law must be ful - filled, Christ came as
da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead; bap - tized in -
creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works serve our



all the world a - tone, our on - ly me - di - a - tor.
God in mer - cy willed, for us the law o - bey - ing.
to your death, I'm freed; your life is mine for - ev - er.
neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.

- 5 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise to Father, Son, and Spirit!
Lord, you have saved us by your grace;
all glory to your merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessed name we hallow.
- 6 Your kingdom come, your will be done
in this world as in heaven;
give bread for each new day begun;
our sins be all forgiven,
as we forgive what others do;
in ev'ry trial see us through;
from evil save us. Amen.

†Confession of Faith & Nature of the Church — *from our congregational and churchwide constitution*

This church confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
and the Gospel as the power of God
for the salvation of all who believe.**

**Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate,
through whom everything was made
and through whose life, death, and resurrection
God fashions a new creation.**

**The proclamation of God's message to us
as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God,
revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed,
beginning with the Word in creation,
continuing in the history of Israel,
and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.**

**The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
are the written Word of God.**

**Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors,
they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ.
Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create
and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.**

All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head.

**All actions of this congregation
are to be carried out under his rule and authority.**

**This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church
and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.**

‡Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Gracious God, as we remember our Reformation, we thank you for all those who have worked to hold the church accountable to its mission. Protect them as they speak truth to power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the goodness of islands, coastlines, and low-lying places. Keep them and their inhabitants safe from harm. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for the diversity you have formed in humankind, made in your image. We pray for endangered languages and cultures. Preserve them to sing your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of all who are sick or injured, especially those who cannot access medical care. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for clergy and ministries that have retired, honoring their faithful service to your church. Bless them with new ways to employ their vocation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for all the faithful saints who taught us to love God and our neighbor. By their example, help us to serve you with heart, soul, and mind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†Peace and Offering Prayer

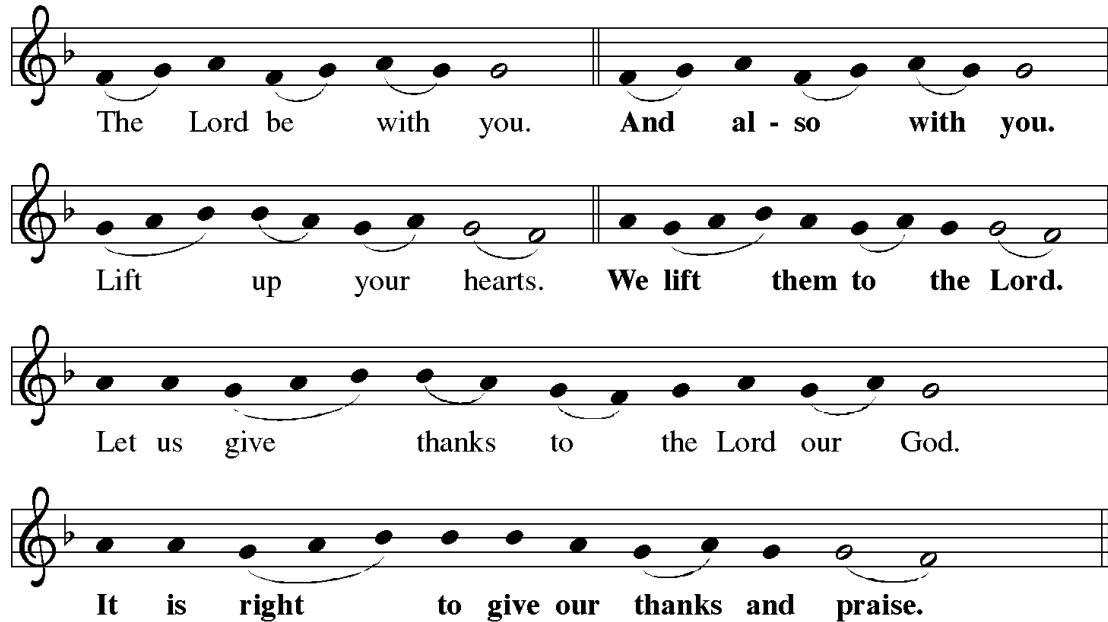
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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!

A musical score for a hymn, consisting of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music concludes with a double bar line.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

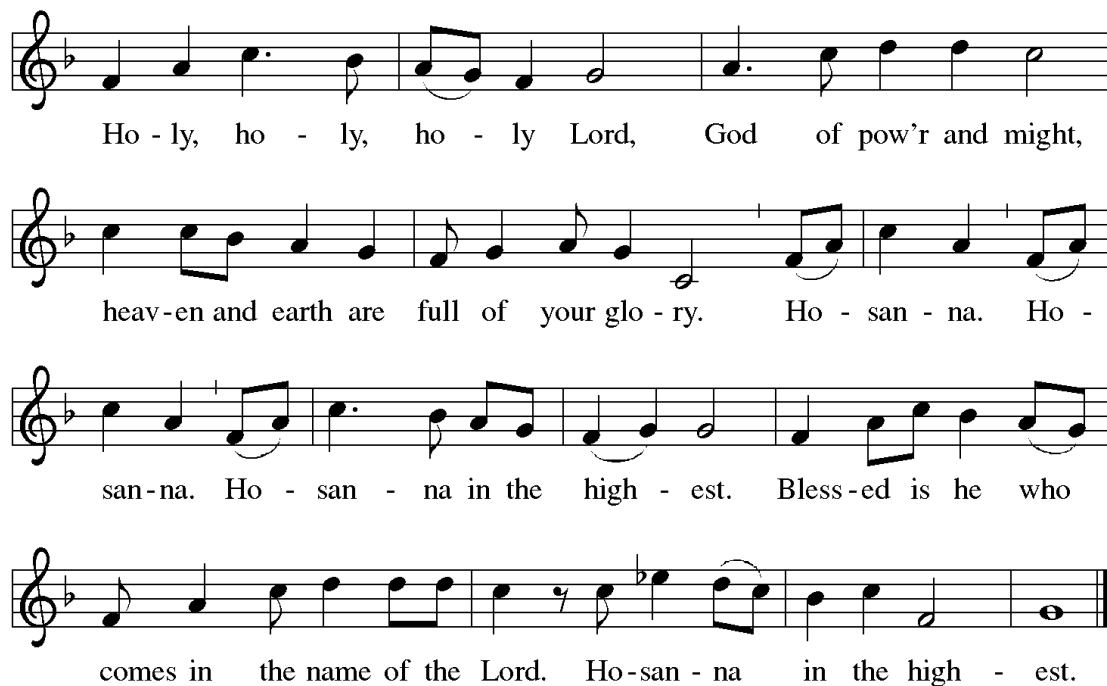
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs indicating phrasing. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



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.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are more varied than in the first section, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Holy One — ancient, eternal and immanent — you are with us
in the love you have promised for your children;
in the grace that embraces us in Jesus;
in the friendship of your Spirit's breath within us all.
We thank you, God Emmanuel.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it for them to eat, 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 them to drink, saying,
“Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering Christ Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension,
we trust our God is with us always; we will never be abandoned.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit, Holy One, on us and on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under them;
grace us to hold you as you are holding us.

Come, Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all honor and glory is yours, Our Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, in your holy Church both now and forever.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei

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.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: *The Truth Will Make You Free*

Anne Organ

†Post Communion Blessing

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

†Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.

Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD smile on you and be gracious unto you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr Catherin Winkworth, 1827-1878

Tune: ERHALT UNS HERR, J Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

†Dismissal — *from Acts 20:32*

And now, I give you into the care of God and the word of God's grace, which is able to make you strong and to give you your heritage among all the saints. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Reformation Fantasy, III Finale*

Wilhelm Rudnick

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice eucharistic hospitality. We invite all baptized Christians to receive Christ's body and blood; all are welcome to receive God's blessing. We trust "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared" to receive this sacrament.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After cleansing hands, our pastor dips the host in the cup to offer the bread and wine together; for the host without wine, please ask the pastor or lay a hand on your chest. Christ is fully present in each of the elements.

Communicants come forward to the feast in continuous procession. Christ is for you.

PJ's reflection on the Gospel

Though belted by a sun-gold ring of bliss
around a sky-blue heaven's cloudless peace
above a rose's purest faithfulness,
the love of God grows palpable release
where grief hangs crossways, heartfelt sores increase
and Jesus smarts as wisdom crucified.
To cut a paper heart, a stubborn crease
reforms the page and folds it— that divide,
which breaks the heart and scars it, may provide
an icon of the faith that graces love
as God is Love: God's image— tucked inside
all earth, all heaven— down, around, above—
there is no law or prophet given us
that doesn't hang in Jesus on Love's cross.



St Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, Virginia is located on the historic lands of the Powhatan Confederacy (Tsenacommacah) and its ancestral peoples; we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have dwelled here and who continue to call this land their home.

St Mark Lutheran Church
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