

THEME: Take Heart! Your Sins are Forgiven!



If you're climbing a mountain, tired and ready to quit, how heartening would it be for someone to grab you and say, "Look, the summit is right there!" Or if you're hiking and lost and someone says, "Look, this is the path home!" Such is our message today. Christians can easily become discouraged and tired in this world of sin but "Take heart! Your sins are forgiven!"

The Common Service

PRESERVICE MUSIC

This is a time of quiet preparation for worship.

OPENING HYMN

Every Morning Mercies New #580 (v.1-2)

- 1 Ev'ry morning mercies new Fall as fresh as morning dew;
Ev'ry morning let us pay Tribute with the early day.
For your mercies, Lord, are sure; Your compassion will endure.
- 2 Still your kindness and your love Ev'ry day our sins remove;
Daily, far as east from west, Lift the burden from the breast;
Give unbought to those who pray Strength to live for you each day.

Please stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: *(sung)* Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

C: (*sung*) **Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD (*Gloria in Excelsis*)

C: (*sung*) **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 15:22-26 (NIV)

²²Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

²⁵Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. ²⁶He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 139a

***Refrain:* To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.**

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me;*
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;*
you are familiar with all my ways.

***Refrain:* To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.**

Where can I go from your Spirit?*
Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;*
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,*
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,*
your right hand will hold me fast.

**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.**

***Refrain:* To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:22-28 (NIV)

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 2:12 (NIV)

M: Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

C: (*sung*) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: (sung) Glory be to you, O Lord!

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ²Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

³At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

⁴Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷Then the man got up and went home. ⁸When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

If Your Beloved Son, O God #393

- 1 If your beloved Son, O God, Had not to earth descended
And in our mortal flesh and blood Had not sin's power ended,
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.
- 2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed, For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me he died That, reconciled, I might abide
With you, my God, forever.
- 3 I trust in him with all my heart; Now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart; His blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through him I now obtain; He washes me from ev'ry stain,
And pure I stand before him.
- 4 All righteousness by works is vain; The law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain; Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice, Has paid the all-sufficient price;
In him my hope is anchored.

5 My guilt, O Father, you have laid On Christ, your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, you my debt have paid And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace, The good in me to you I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

SERMON

Please stand

CREATE IN ME (*music can be found in the front of the hymnal on page 20*)

**C: (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Amen.**

OFFERING

The members of St. Mark's have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Those who wish to give an offering may give electronically through our website, scan this QR code, or mail a check to church. Website and mailing addresses are listed at the top of page 1.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

At St. Mark's we practice the custom of Close Communion, inviting to our altar only confirmed members of our church body, the WELS, and of those in fellowship with us. We do this because Communion is also a sign of Christian unity, based upon agreement on the doctrines of the Bible. This is not an insult to our Christian brethren in other denominations, but a recognition of differing church teachings. We, with all Christians, look forward to the day when we will all sit together in peace at the marriage feast of the Lamb. (See 1 Corinthians 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

† † †

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Sanctus)*

C: *(sung)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts; heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

C: *(sung)* **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee #402

- 1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

DISMISSAL

At the end of the distribution, the minister will pronounce the blessing.

Please stand

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

C: (*sung*) **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (*sung*) **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (*sung*) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Every Morning Mercies New #580 (v.3-4)

3 Let our prayers each morn prevail That these gifts may never fail.
And as we confess our sin And the tempter's pow'r within,
Feed us with the bread of life; Fit us for our daily strife.

- 4 As the morning light returns, As the sun with splendor burns,
Teach us still to turn to you; With your light our souls renew.
Then shall we our voices raise In unfailing prayer and praise.

Thanks for worshiping with us today!



Let us know you worshiped with us!

If you take a picture of this QR code with most smartphones it will take you to our Friendship Register and Online Connection Card. You may also visit: stmarksbemidji.org/online-connection-card/

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