



MISERICORDIAS DOMINI
("THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD")
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE
RESURRECTION
FEAST OF ST. MARK, EVANGELIST
(APRIL 25)

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR BLESSED

LORD! We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Concordia Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, out of Your fatherly goodness You have been mindful of us poor, miserable sinners, and have given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd, not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death, and the devil: We beseech You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that, even as this Shepherd knows us and helps us in every affliction, we also may know Him, and, trusting in Him, seek help and

APRIL 23, 2023 † 9:00 A. M.

comfort in Him, from our hearts obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Divine Service: Rite Four (The Lutheran Choral Service)
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary: p. 107

The Office of Preparation
(Confession Sin & Holy Absolution)

Hymn of Invocation: *345, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

**C: Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia!
Offer ye your praises meet Alleluia!
At the Paschal Victim's feet. Alleluia!**

**For the sheep the Lamb hath bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!
Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, the Victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and man hath reconciled, Alleluia!
While in strange and awful strife Alleluia!
Met together death and life. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this happy day Alleluia!
Haste with joy your vows to pay. Alleluia!
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Alleluia!
Now He lives no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Christ, who once for sinners bled, Alleluia!
Now the First-born from the dead, Alleluia!
Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!
Lives and reigns forevermore. Alleluia!**

Hail, eternal Hope on high! Alleluia!

Hail, Thou King of victory! Alleluia!
Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored! Alleluia!
Help and save us, gracious Lord. Alleluia!

Invocation & Confession of Sin (spoken)

P: In the Name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: † Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Kyrie Eleison: *34, Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above*

**C: Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love,
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!**

**Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost,
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most; Do Thou our last hour bless;
Let us leave this sinful world with gladness. Eleison, eleison!**

Gloria in Excelsis (*ELH p. 44-45*)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

**C: All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!**

Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

Collect for the Day

P: O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world: grant to Your faithful people perpetual gladness, and those whom You have delivered from the danger of everlasting death, make partakers of eternal joys; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Collect for the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25)

P: O almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the precious Gospel written by Your Evangelist Saint Mark: Give us grace that we may firmly believe Your glad tidings of salvation and daily walk as it befits the Gospel of Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: *Ezekiel 34:11-16*

P: *In those days* Ezekiel prophesied: Thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. "As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. "And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. "I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. "I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 177, *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

C: I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am,
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need, and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

Epistle: *1 Peter 2:21-25*

P: *Brethren:* To this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Chief Hymn: *368, The Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is (tune: 538)*

C: **The Lord my faithful Shepherd is, And me He safely guideth;
I shall not want, for I am His Who all things good provideth.
I follow Him, I hear His voice, In Him my Lord I do rejoice
Blest am I in His keeping!**

**A tender shepherd leads his sheep Where pastures green are growing,
And there His flock doth guard and keep Beside still waters flowing.
Thus Christ, my Shepherd, leadeth me, My soul and body feedeth He
And for their wants provideth.**

**And if I ever go astray, My wayward soul He turneth,
To save the lost, to guide the way, For this He ever yearneth;
He leadeth me, my soul to bless In His own path of righteousness
For His name's sake and glory.**

**Why should I ever fear, O Lord, Whilst Thee I have beside me?
Thou by Thy Spirit and Thy Word Dost comfort and dost guide me.
In death's dark vale I'll fear no ill, For Thou, O Lord, art with me still,
Thy rod and staff shall stay me.**

**Thou art my host; for me, Thy guest, A table Thou providest.
Though foes be near, I am at rest, Thou still with me abidest.
With oil anointest Thou my head, On me Thy blessing rich is shed,
My cup with bliss o'erfloweth.**

**Thy goodness and Thy mercy, Lord, Shall follow me, attending
The days Thou dost to me afford Until they reach their ending.
Thereafter shall I in Thy love Dwell in Thy house in heav'n above
Forever and forever.**

Holy Gospel: *St. John 10:11-16*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. John, the 10th chapter:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

P: This is the † Holy Gospel.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Creedal Hymn: *38, We All Believe in One True God*

**C: We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love Hath the right of children given.
He both soul and body feedeth, All we need He doth provide us;
He through snares and perils leadeth, Watching that no harm betide us.
He careth for us day and night, All things are governed by His might.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of every grace and blessing.
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,
Made true man, our elder Brother, That the lost might life inherit;
Was crucified for sinful men And raised by God to life again.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who sweet grace and comfort giveth
And with the Father and the Son In eternal glory liveth;
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally. Amen.**

Sermon

Pulpit Hymn: *348, He Is Arisen! Glorious Word! (Tune: 167)*

**C: He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus died triumphantly, and Satan's arrows broken lie.
Destroyed hell's direst weapon.
Oh, hear, What cheer! Christ victorious Riseth glorious, Life He giveth –
He was dead, but see, He liveth!**

The Intercessions: *each petition concludes:* Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *371, The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

**C: The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.**

**Yea, tho' I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.**

The Collect (III): p. 86-87

P: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, unto Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word, as becomes it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Benediction: p. 84

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Dismissal Hymn: 179, *Jesus Loves Me*

**C: Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! See His grace! On the cross He took my place.
There He suffered and He died, That I might be glorified.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! God's own Son Over sin the vict'ry won.
When I die, saved by His grace, I shall see Him face to face.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He is near. He is with His Church so dear.
And the Spirit He has sent By His Word and Sacrament.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves! The Bible tells me so.**

Our Life Together

Bible Studies: Bible study continues at the normal time of 12:45 following the Service today at Bethany. *The Thursday Study is cancelled this week and next* due to Pastor being out of town.

Pastor's Conferences: Pastor will be in Port Orchard, WA this week attending the annual Pastors' Conference for ELS Circuits 11 & 12. That's Wednesday through Friday. Then on Saturday he will be attending the Emmaus Conference at Parkland Lutheran Church in Tacoma. On Tuesday of next week Pastor will be traveling to Bakersfield, CA to attend the annual conference of the Orthodox Lutheran Confessional Conference on Wednesday & Thursday, where he will be presenting a paper. He will be traveling home on Friday.

The New ELS Apologetics & Worldview Article available on the table in the Narthex was written by Pastor Lawson. It is entitled *How Were People Saved Before Christ?* Take a copy (or 2 or 3) on your way out of church today.

Hope Medical Clinic: Copies of the spring newsletter are available on the entryway table.

The Dalles & Hood River Hope Medical Clinic Fundraiser Event

Spring Legacy: Youth Art Gallery, Dessert & Fellowship

When: Friday, April 28, from 7-9pm
Where: Gateway Church, The Dalles

Tickets

Single (\$15)
Couple (\$20)
Family (\$40)

Tickets may be purchased until April 24th (or when sold out) at hopemedicalclinic.org/support or by calling the clinic at (541) 386-1050.

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events

Monday: *Commemoration of Blessed Johann Walter, Lutheran Musician;*
Pastor at Concordia

Tuesday: FEAST OF ST. MARK, EVANGELIST; Pastor at Bethany

Wednesday: Pastor at Concordia; leaving for Port Orchard, WA at 3:00pm

Thursday: Pastor in Port Orchard, WA at ELS Circuit 11 & 12 Pastors' Conference

Friday: Pastor in Port Orchard, WA at ELS Circuit 11 & 12 Pastors' Conference

Saturday: Pastor at Parkland Lutheran Church's *Emmaus Conference* in Tacoma, WA

Next Sunday: *Jubilate: The Third Sunday After the Resurrection*

Concordia Office of Matins, 9:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am;

Bible Study for the Parish at Bethany, 12:45pm

Easter 3 Hymn: "Thou by Thy Spirit and Thy Word Dost comfort and dost guide me." Today's CHIEF HYMN is a hymn on a hymn! When Jesus sang hymns with His disciples, they would have been singing from their hymnal, the Psalms, which includes Psalm 23. *The Lord My Faithful Shepherd Is* is a musical sermon on that most beloved of Psalms. It was written by Scandinavian hymn-writer Anders Christian Arrebo (1587-1637). Arrebo was ordained at the age of 21 and served pastoral posts in both Denmark and Sweden and as bishop in Trondheim, Norway. His hymn preaches Christ as the answer to David's hymn. It heavily emphasizes throughout baptism, Word and Supper as the places where we encounter Christ the Good Shepherd and the means by which He shepherds us. The hymn shows Jesus loving us; Jesus leading us to good water; Jesus shepherding us when we go astray; Jesus walking through the valley of the shadow of death with us and for us; Jesus feeding us a meal in the wilderness of this life; and Jesus bringing us to eternal life. Recall Jesus shepherding the disciples on the road to Emmaus, bringing Thomas back to the fold, opening Mary's fear-filled eyes to see that He is the Risen One, curing Peter's broken conscience and restoring him, appearing to His brother James and many others as the Shepherd Who loves them. Even now He gathers the scattered through Word and Sacraments and restores the lost into the fold through the great "peace be to you" of the absolution.

Explaining the Divine Service

Communing with God: Preparation of the Elements

After the Intercessions the sacred elements of bread and wine to be used for the celebration of the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar are prepared. Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown measures, the offering was first collected. When the measures started, to avoid having to pass a plate around, we began having our members put their offering in the plate before or after the Service. That practice has continued and seems to work perfectly well.

Passing the plate has been a part of all our worship experiences, but western liturgies, including Lutheran liturgies, generally made no provision for an offering until relatively recently. There were alms boxes by the church doors to receive offerings from the congregation on their way in or out of church.

The ancient church had an *offertory procession* at this point in the Service. The people would come forward and lay their gifts of money and various sorts of food on a table near the altar. These gifts were for the support of the clergy and for the poor and would later be distributed as needed. From the gifts a portion of bread and wine were selected to be used for the Lord's Supper.

This procession continued in many places, in one form or another, until late into the Middle Ages, when it was finally replaced altogether with the Roman *Offertory* ceremony. Here the offerings were taken completely out of the hands of the people and made into a clerical act which was regarded as a necessary part of the offering of "the holy sacrifice of the Mass."

By the 14th century the *Offertory* included several prayers of a highly sacrificial character, the mingling of water with the wine in the chalice, the offering of the host (bread) and chalice, the incensing of the altar and the elements, and the washing of hands. The central prayer of the offertory, prayed by the priest, was as follows:

Receive, O holy Father, almighty and eternal God, this spotless host which I, thy unworthy servant, offer unto Thee, my living and true God, for mine own countless sins, offences and negligences, and for all here present; as also for all faithful Christians living and dead, that it may avail for my own and their salvation unto life eternal.

The Lutheran reformers rejected the Roman Offertory and made no attempt to purify it. They simply cut it out of the Service. Luther's conviction was that the Lord's Supper is God's gift of Christ's sacrificial body and blood, which He gives to us for our forgiveness. It is not a sacrifice that we offer to God to make atonement for sin.

Luther called the Roman Offertory an “abomination which makes everything sound and smell of sacrifice.”

For the Lutherans, then, this point in the Service was simply the time for the pastor to prepare the bread and wine for Holy Communion while the choir or congregation chanted psalm verses or sung hymns. So it is for us.

The Intercessions conclude with the Apostolic Benediction: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.* Then the elements are prepared. To cover the time, the congregation sings a *Hymn of Preparation* – often a hymn from the communion section of the hymnal, or a hymn appropriate for the day that emphasizes in some way the gift of the Lord’s Supper.

Before handling the elements the pastor washes his hands. That’s why I go into the sacristy at Bethany, and off to the credence table at Concordia. It’s a good idea to wash one’s hands before handling food. That’s a general rule of thumb. How much more so before handling and distributing the most holy food there is? The washing of hands isn’t just about sanitation. It is more so about reverence for what the pastor is about to handle with his unworthy hands.

The hands are washed with pure water – ideally no soaps or hand sanitizers (they have been washed with soap and water prior to the Service). There is a whole ceremony for this called the *lavabo*, which involves an acolyte pouring water on the pastor’s hands and drying them off while the pastor recites Psalm 26:12, which begins: *I will wash my hands in innocence, so will I go about Your altar, O Lord.* I recite those verses while washing my hands, though we don’t do the more elaborate *lavabo* (mainly because we have no acolyte).

The communion vessels are then arranged on the altar and the elements are prepared for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. During this time the pastor prays for himself and the congregation. First the bread is prepared. The bread for Holy Communion is most appropriately referred to as a *host* since that’s what the bread is: a host for the very body of Christ. While preparing the host(s) the pastor prays and ancient prayer:

Grant, O Lord, that as this bread was once wheat and was scattered in many fields, and is here gathered into bread: so to gather Your Church from every nation, and city, and village, and house; and make one living, holy Church.

While preparing the cup(s) he prays:

Grant, O Lord, that as this wine was gathered from the fruit of the vine; so may we be gathered into the True Vine, Jesus Christ; and abiding in Him, bring forth fruit unto everlasting life.

He concludes the preparation with this prayer:

Receive us, O Lord, as we come before You with a contrite heart and an humble spirit, so that this celebration of Our Lord's testament may be well pleasing in Your sight.

Only as many hosts and wine should be prepared on the altar as are necessary to commune those who present themselves. It's easy enough to do. The wine in the chalice (as well as the individual cups at Bethany) is/are, of course, prepared before the Service. At both churches we know about how many are going to commune. It is simply not necessary to consecrate an entire package of 100 hosts to commune the number of people who come to our altars. To do so is sloppy, irreverant practice that leads to abuses, but more on that in a later article.

Easter 3: The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). Herein lies our assurance that our Shepherd does not abandon His sheep. He loves them too much. He paid too much for them to forsake them. We live our lives, not in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of the Good Shepherd.

Prayer: *Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for me. Amen.*

Life Thoughts in the Church Year/One Year Lectionary – Lutherans For Life