Opening Hymn:  # 121

M: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

All: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for private confession.

M: Jesus says to his people: “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Prayer

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm 46 (spoken responsively)

M: God is our refuge and strength, C: An ever-present help in trouble.

M: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way C: And the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, M: Though its waters roar and foam C: And the mountains quake with their surging.

M: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, C: The holy place where the Most High dwells.

M: God is within her, she will not fail; C: God will help her at break of day.

M: "Be still, and know that I am God; C: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

ALL: 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.

Psalm Prayer

M: Lord God, our refuge and strength, when the restless powers of this world and the fury of Satan rise up against your holy city, watch over it and keep it safe. Be with us in every time of trouble and bring us to the new Jerusalem where you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Passion Reading - # 3

Response

All: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

Sermon Hymn:  # 116

Sermon Text: Hebrews 4:15

Sermon: Skirmishes

Offering
Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Hymn: # 422

Evening Prayer
All: In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing
M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: # 587

Announcements
We are glad that you joined us here this evening. We thank Pastor Tom Westendorf for preaching. Next week Pastor Bilitz will be here to preach on the theme: *Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy.*

We thank St. Clair’s Stewardship Committee for serving barbecues and bars after service. We thank those at Alma City for serving hamburger stew before the service.

Thank-you to Rosemary Snyder and Mary Bade for playing organ tonight.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
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Lent 2020