

25th Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion



NOVEMBER 19, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**HAGERSTOWN, MD**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor  
Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.org

+ *Congregation please stand if able*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE - Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**Benjamin Culli**

+ **CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN - "Lord of Light"**

**ELW 688**

1 Lord of light, your name outshining  
all the stars and suns of space,  
use our talents in your kingdom  
as the servants of your grace;  
use us to fulfill your purpose  
in the gift of Christ your Son:

*Refrain*

Father, as in highest heaven,  
so on earth your will be done.

2 By the toil of faithful workers  
in some far outlying field,  
by the courage where the radiance  
of the cross is still revealed,  
by the victories of meekness,  
through reproach and suffering won:

*Refrain*

3 Grant that knowledge, still  
increasing,  
at your feet may lowly kneel;  
with your grace our triumphs hallow,  
with your charity our zeal;  
lift the nations from the shadows  
to the gladness of the sun: *Refrain*

4 By the prayers of faithful watchers,  
never silent day or night;  
by the cross of Jesus, bringing  
peace to all and healing light;  
by the love that passes knowledge,  
making all your children one:

*Refrain*

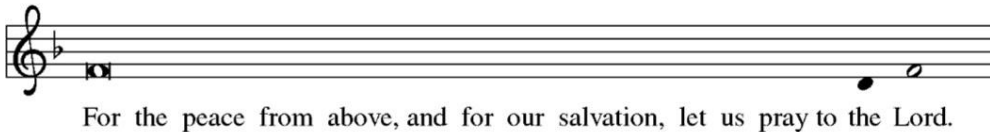
+ **GREETING**

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.**

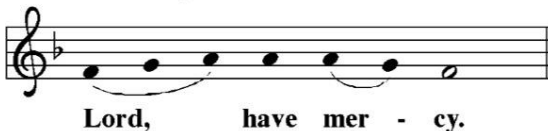
+ **KYRIE**



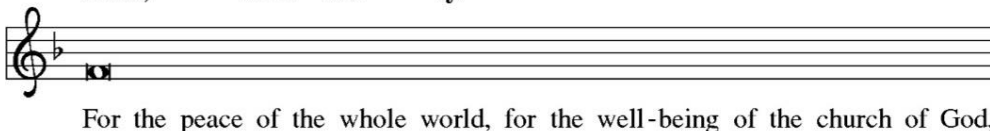
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



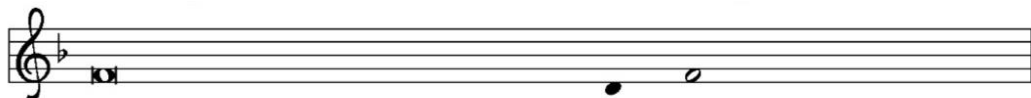
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



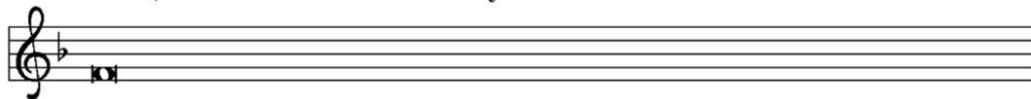
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



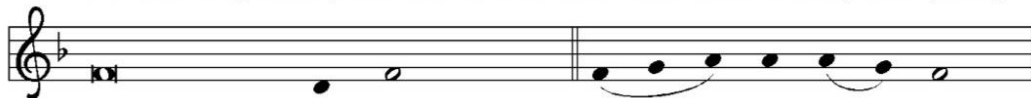
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



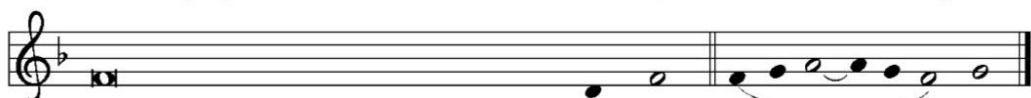
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

+ **GLORIA**



Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING - Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem  
with lamps,

and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,

“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is  
bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the  
LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,

### ***PSALM 90***

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have been our dwelling  
place in all generations.  
<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought  
forth, or ever you had formed the  
earth and the world, from everlasting  
to everlasting you are God.**  
<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.**  
<sup>5</sup>You sweep them away; they are like a

and their flesh like dung.  
<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of  
the earth.  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be  
to God.**

dream, like grass that is renewed in the  
morning;  
<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it flourishes and is  
renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**  
<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
<sup>8</sup>**You have set our iniquities before  
you, our secret sins in the light of your  
countenance.**  
<sup>12</sup>So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.

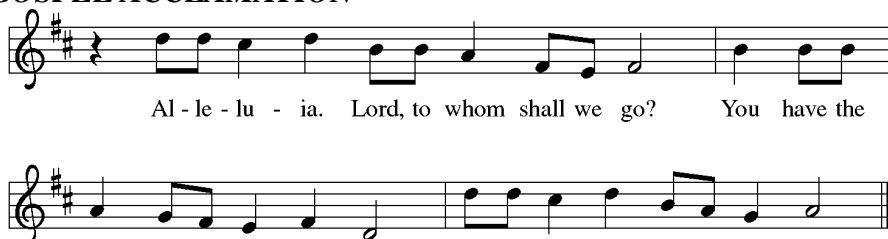
### ***SECOND READING - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at

night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ **GOSPEL - Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in

a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The gospel of the Lord.



## SERMON

Pastor Brian

### + HYMN OF THE DAY - “Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Longing for light, we wait in<br/>darkness.<br/>Longing for truth, we turn to you.<br/>Make us your own, your holy people,<br/>light for the world to see.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i><br/>Christ, be our light!<br/>Shine in our hearts.<br/>Shine through the darkness.<br/>Christ, be our light!<br/>Shine in your church gathered today.</p> | <p>3 Longing for food, many are hungry.<br/>Longing for water, many still thirst.<br/>Make us your bread, broken for<br/>others,<br/>shared until all are fed. <i>Refrain</i></p>  |
| <p>2 Longing for peace, our world is<br/>troubled.<br/>Longing for hope, many despair.<br/>Your word alone has pow'r to save<br/>us.<br/>Make us your living voice. <i>Refrain</i></p>  | <p>4 Longing for shelter, many are<br/>homeless.<br/>Longing for warmth, many are cold.<br/>Make us your building, sheltering<br/>others,<br/>walls made of living stone. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5 Many the gifts, many the people,<br/>many the hearts that yearn to belong.<br/>Let us be servants to one another,<br/>signs of your kingdom come.<br/><i>Refrain</i></p> |



**+ *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 into hell. 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 THE CHURCH***

*Response:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**+ *SHARING OF THE PEACE***

***OFFERING***

***MUSIC OFFERING - Improvisation on For the Beauty of the Earth***

**Callahan**

**+ *OFFERTORY - "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"***

**ELW 182**

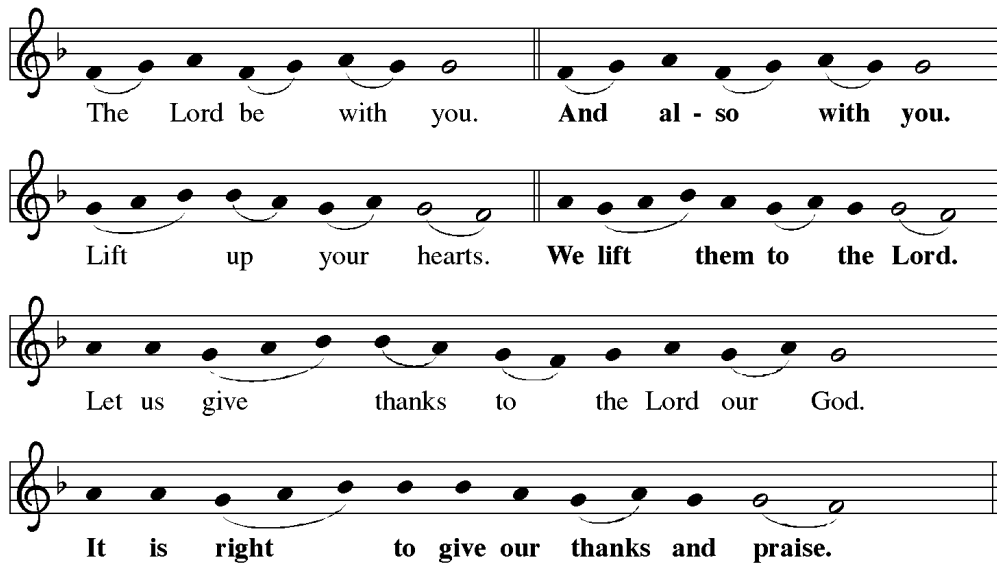
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that  
were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

unite them with the prayers we offer  
now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to  
come.

**+*OFFERING PRAYER***

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

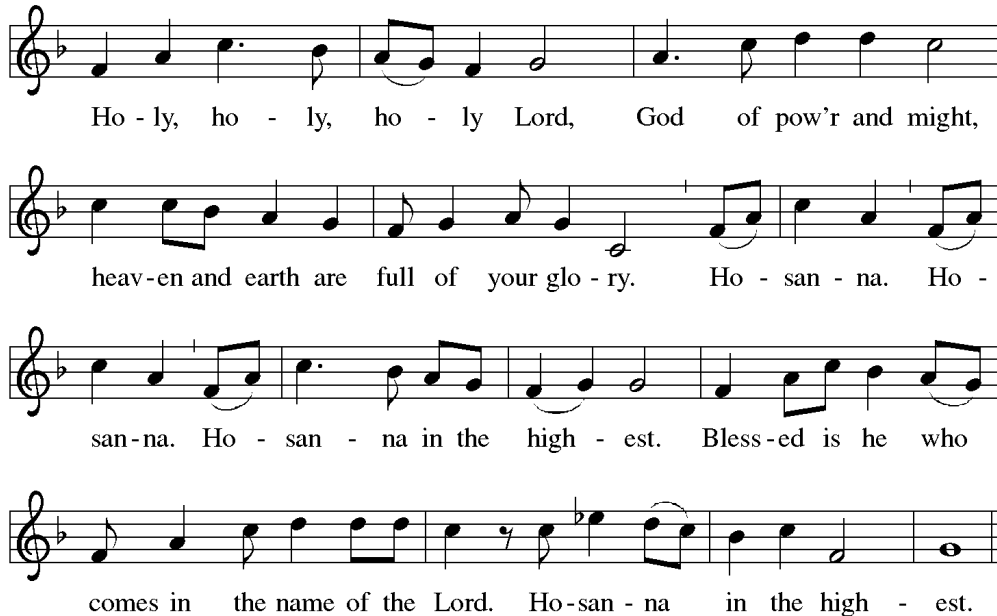


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

+ **SANCTUS**



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.

**+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**+ THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.  
Thanks be to God.

**+ LAMB OF GOD**

☐ 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**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken  
O Christ the Same*

*ELW 494  
ELW 760*

**+ TABLE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ **CLOSING HYMN - “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”** **ELW 815**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.<br>I want to follow Jesus.<br>God set the stars to give light to the world.<br>The star of my life is Jesus. | 2 I want to see the brightness of God.<br>I want to look at Jesus.<br>Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,<br>and show me the way to the Father. |
|--|---|

*Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- Refrain*
- |  |
|--|
| 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.<br>I want to be with Jesus.<br>When we have run with patience the race,<br>we shall know the joy of Jesus. |
|--|
- Refrain*

+ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*You may be seated during the postlude.*

**POSTLUDE - Festival Voluntary**

**Flor Peeters**

---

*Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining (ABBOT'S LEIGH)* – Text: Howard Elvet Lewis, Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor © 1942 Hope Publ. Co.; *Christ, Be Our Light* - Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell © 1993 OCP Publ.; *Improvisation on For the Beauty of the Earth* from *Thanksgiving Music for Manuals* - Charles Callahan © 1993 MorningStar Music Publ. / Birnamwood Publ.; *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* – Text: Louis F Benson © 1925 Robert Jefferys Jr., admin. Augsburg Fortress; *O Christ the Same / RED HILL ROAD* – Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Music: Carl Schalk © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publ.; *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* – Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 Celebration; *Festival Voluntary* - Flor Peeters © 1958 Oxford University Press; Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-740359. Permission to reprint / podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from One License.

All liturgy reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress License #SAS000843. All rights reserved.

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* - Benjamin Culli © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. Used by permission.