



the welcome place.

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Worship Bulletin  
Sunday, July 9, 2023  
6th Sunday after Pentecost

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 192)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *Jesus Shall Reign* (ELW 434)

## GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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 (ELW p. 184)**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12**

A reading from Zechariah.

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are <sup>1</sup> good to all,  
and your compassion is over <sup>1</sup> all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
and your faithful <sup>1</sup> ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom  
and speak | of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

<sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? (W&P 7)***

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* (ELW 777)

**CREED** (ELW p. 189)

**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 to the dead.\*  
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 INTERCESSION

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word (*especially name/s*) as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need (*especially*), and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (ELW 763)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 190)**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 (ELW p. 190)**

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:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 190)**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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 all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 (ELW p. 191)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (ELW 697)**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* (W&P 119)**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**PREACHER / PRESIDER** ..... The Reverend Kevin Tracey

**MUSICIAN** ..... Faith Woodward

**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT** ..... Edie Beaupre

**LECTOR** ..... Edie Beaupre

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**CHURCH STAFF**

**PASTOR:** The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey    **SCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Melisa McDaid

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Faith Woodward    **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Alice Kaplan

# Announcements

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Today .....	Adult Sunday School .....	9 AM
Today .....	Worship Service .....	10 AM
Sunday .....	Adult Sunday School .....	9 AM
Sunday .....	Worship Service .....	10 AM

**BRING SOME CHEER TO OUR SHUT-INS.** Helen Heaney has moved to Fair Acres and would love to hear from you. Her new address is:

Helen Heaney  
Fair Acres Geriatric Center  
340 N Middletown Rd, Bldg. 8-310  
Lima, PA 19037

You would make her day if you sent her a get-well card or a birthday card. (Her birthday is July 16.) If you'd like to brighten the lives of other homebound members of our congregation, please contact the church office for a list.

**LUTHERANISM AS A WAY OF LIFE** - Starting in September, Pr. Kevin will lead four informal learning sessions for new members, lifelong members, and everyone in between! Using Daniel Erlander's book *Baptized We Live*, we'll take four weeks to talk about Lutheranism in four ways. Erlander uses illustrations, informal language, and stories to talk about what it means to be a Christian in the "Lutheran Way." We'll gather after worship on the following dates for about an hour and a half:

September 17 A Way of Seeing  
September 24 A Way of Hearing  
October 15 A Way of Living  
October 22 A Way of Following

If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex or email Pr. Kevin directly so we can order enough books for everyone. You don't have to be able to attend every session to participate!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - the first communion workshop will be Saturday, Sept. 30th from 1-5:30. First communion Sunday is the next day, Oct. 1 (which is also world communion Sunday!)

It's time for the annual **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**. See the bulletin insert for a supply list and ways to contribute.