



May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter



**WELCOME TO
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

St. Mark's is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We welcome you to our worship today & hope you will worship with us again soon!

Our worship service is also available online each Sunday at 10 AM as well.

To find us online, please visit our website, YouTube, Facebook:

<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us>
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchurchwauk6372/streams>
<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

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May Mission of the Month
ELCA Disaster Relief Response



Please refer to the May-August issue of the Messenger for further information regarding the mission of the month.



Pastor Colin—Opening Message

Gathering

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, saves, and sends us with love that lives forever.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

Thanks be to God.

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

Thanks be to God.

For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death.

Thanks be to God.

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.

Thanks be to God.

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.

Thanks be to God.

For the One who turned water to wine and met a woman at the well with living water.

Thanks be to God.

For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed.

God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation; our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation. Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched thanks to the risen Jesus, the Son of God.

Amen.

Gathering Song - People Need People - Cain

You can go and build a mighty mansion
 But with no family, all that house just goes to waste
 You can fix a feast to feed an army
 But with no friends, there's no need to celebrate
 Back in the beginning there were two in the garden
 No, we were never made to be alone
 God knows

People need people, need people, need people
 To the Father there's nothing better
 Than when the kids all come together
 People need people, need people, need people

When there's nothing, but love between us
 We can finally start to see what God knows
 People need people, need people, need people
 People need people, need people, need people
 'Cause You know love is just like water
 It's no secret, we all need it to survive
 It won't last long without your brother
 'Cause when you fall, he'll lift you up every time
 Oh God knows

People need people, need people, need people
 To the Father there's nothing better
 Than when the kids all come together
 People need people, need people, need people
 When there's nothing, but love between us
 We can finally start to see what God knows

People need people, need people, need people
 People need people, need people, need people

The weak need the strong
 The strong need the weak
 We've all got something missing
 And we're all the missing piece
 The strong need the weak
 The weak need the strong
 We're all searching for an answer
 That's been here all along

People need people, need people, need people

People need people, need people, need people
 To the Father there's nothing better
 Than when the kids all come together
 People need people, need people, need people
 When there's nothing but love between us
 We can finally start to see what God knows
 People need people, need people, need people
 People need people, need people, need people

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God, you offer joys for those who connect with you. Fill our hearts with love that helps us experience your promises, which are greater than we can imagine. Guide us together through Jesus Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

Reading: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Gospel: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

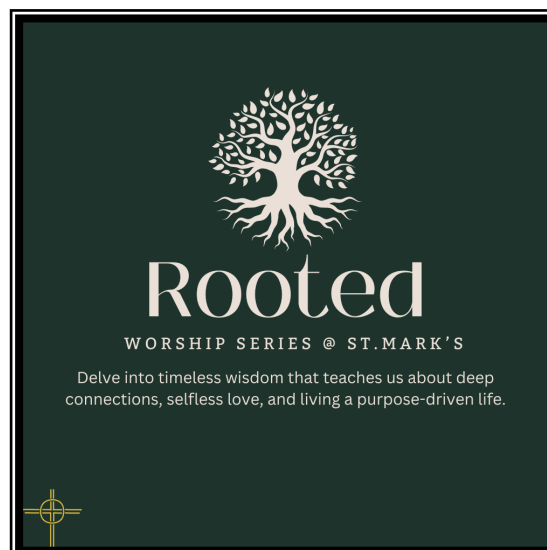
On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] “As the Father loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and abide in God’s love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the God will give you whatever you ask in my name. This command I give to you: love one another.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Series



Sermon Series Description

Dive into our sermon series, "Rooted," as we explore what it means to live a life deeply anchored in Christ. Discover the essential teachings of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the True Vine, and learn how to cultivate a faith that is not only resilient but also rich in spiritual fruit. This series will guide you through the principles of sacrificial love, the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, and our collective mission as followers of Christ. Whether you are seeking to deepen your spiritual connections or find your calling within the faith community, "Rooted" offers the tools and inspiration needed to thrive in your spiritual journey.

Hymn of the Day - I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever



Over the mountains and the sea
 Your river runs with love for me
 And I will open up my heart
 And let the Healer set me free
 I'm happy to be in the truth
 And I will daily lift my hands
 For I will always sing
 Of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever

Oh I feel like dancing
 It's foolishness I know
 But when the world has seen the light
 They will dance with joy like we're dancing now

I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever
 I could sing of Your love forever

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 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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your church. Empower us with the courage and joy to carry out your mission of love. Strengthen our bonds with ecumenical and interreligious partners, that together, we might reflect your love more fully.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Creator of all, renew the face of the earth. Let every creature and habitat thrive under your tender care. Inspire us to protect endangered species and preserve the natural world you have entrusted to us.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, guide the leaders of nations towards paths of peace and justice. Foster in them a desire for genuine cooperation and wise stewardship of communal resources.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Comforter of the afflicted, bring relief to those suffering from mental and emotional distress. Make your church a sanctuary of care and an agent of your love in the world.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Lord of the harvest, bless the ministries of this congregation. May our actions reflect your love and service, inspiring and involving others in the joy of your Gospel.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Eternal Rest, we give thanks for those who have shown us your love and friendship. Unite us with them in everlasting joy at your heavenly banquet.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your everlasting love and friendship, we commend all for whom we pray, confident in your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our risen and loving Lord.

Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Song - As The Deer

As the deer panteth for the water
 So my soul longeth after Thee
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee

You alone are my strength, my shield
 To You alone may my spirit yield
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee

As the deer panteth for the water
 So my soul longeth after Thee
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee

You alone are my strength, my shield
 To You alone may my spirit yield
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee

You're my friend
 And You are my brother
 Even though You are a King
 I love You more than any other
 So much more than anything
 You alone are my strength, my shield
 To You alone may my spirit yield
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving / Dialogue

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

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Song - Beautiful Savior

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
 Bright the sparkling stars on high;
 Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
 Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
 Now and forevermore be Thine!

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray with open hearts:

Life-giving God, in the mystery of renewal, you provide nourishing bread to feed our spirits as you send refreshing waters to renew the earth. Inspire us to live as witnesses to love and justice, sharing your grace with all the world, through the spirit of loving-kindness. **Amen.**

Blessing

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

Sending Song - Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
 praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
 earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
 stars and angels sing around thee,
 center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 chanting bird, and flowing fountain
 call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
 ever blessing, ever blest,
 wellspring of the joy of living,
 ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
 all who live in love are thine;
 teach us how to love each other,
 lift us to the joy divine!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Please join us after worship for
 Sunday Funday Spring Cleaning / White Elephant Bingo & Dessert Bar

Announcements & Events

Saturday - May 11th - WSM Pulla Bread Bake Sale

2-5 PM in the fellowship hall. \$7 per loaf. Proceeds go to Missions.

Sunday, May 12th – Mother's Day (No fellowship after worship)

WSM Pulla Bread Bake Sale before & after worship in the fellowship hall

Sunday, May 19th – Pentecost Sunday

May 26th – Trinity Sunday & last day of Sunday School

Sunday School Planting Party!

If anyone wants to donate soil, plants/seed we welcome them!

Please feel free to join the following small groups:

Women of St. Mark's - 1st Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

Yarns of Compassion - 3rd Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

Reflections in the Spirit - 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7 PM.

Reflections of the Seasons - 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 12 PM

Zoom Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday Night @ 7 PM

Gather Bible Study - 2nd Friday of the month @ 7 PM.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - Fri. Night @ 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Come as You Are, Whoever You Are

Everyone is welcome at St. Mark's, no matter what you have done, what has been done to you, what darkness or struggles you have faced, and regardless of whether you have been marginalized by society or denied involvement by other churches.

All are worthy of God's love and grace. We celebrate diversity, and seek to be inclusive of every race, ethnicity, faith background, age, economic status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental ability, or anything else that divides us.

Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But it is our place to love all our neighbors, aid the less fortunate, and to be a voice on their behalf.

Welcome!

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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If you'd like more information about St. Mark's, please scan the St. Mark's Website QRC code below.

If you'd like to receive emails from St. Mark's or your contact information needs to be updated, please scan the Contact Form QRC below. Or, fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate.

St. Mark's Member/Visitor Information Card **Please provide the following information:**

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____



St. Mark's Website



Contact Form