



Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth 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/channel/UCCSZGBTjTxsR3QcZ9YX0xNw>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

3350 N. Delany Road Waukegan, IL 60087
Phone: 847-623-5135
Email: stmarkslutheran@gmail.com

April Mission of the Month
Debt Reduction / Simply Giving



Please refer to the March/April issue of the Messenger for further information regarding the mission of the month.



Pastor Colin Cranmer - Welcome

Gathering

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

Gathering Song - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
 Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

[Refrain]

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
 Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
 telling the story to open our eyes;
 breaking our bread, giving us glory:
 Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. [Refrain]

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
 life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
 heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
 gift of the future now flowing to me. [Refrain]

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
 death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
 Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
 Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. [Refrain]

Confession 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.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Kyrie

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

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.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot thrive. Nourish our life in your strong care, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading: John 4:11-18

A reading from 1 John.

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and that love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God abides in us, because we received the Spirit as a gift. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation - Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

**Halle Halle Hallelujah
Halle Halle Hallelujah
Halle Halle Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

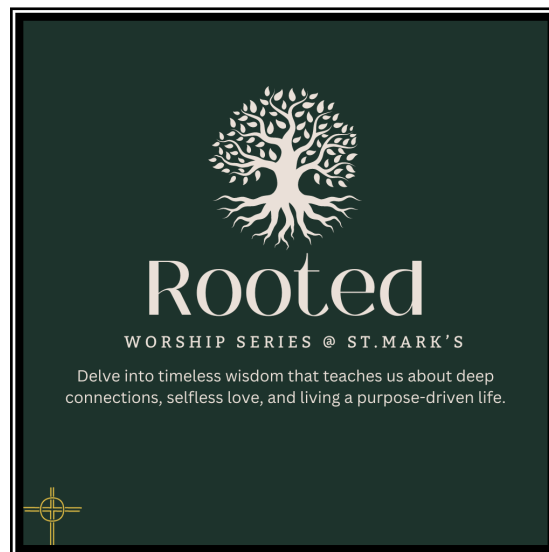
Gospel: John 15:1-8

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

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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



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 - Whole Heart

Hold me now
In the hands that created the heavens
Find me now
Where the grace runs as deep as Your scars
You pulled me from the clay
You set me on a rock
Called me by Your name
And made my heart whole again

Lifted up
And my knees know it's all for Your glory
That I might stand
With more reasons to sing than to fear
You pulled me from the clay
Set me on a rock
Called me by Your name
And made my heart whole again

So here I stand, high in surrender
I need You now
Hold my heart now and forever
My soul cries out

Once I was broken
But You loved my whole heart through
Sin has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds me now

And that grace
Owns the ground where the grave did
Where all my shame remains
Left for dead in your wake
You crashed those age-old gates
You left no stone unturned
You stepped out of that grave
And shouldered me all the way

So here I stand, high in surrender
I need You now
Hold my heart now and forever
My soul cries out

'Cause once I was broken
But You loved my whole heart through
Sin has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds me now

Healed and forgiven
Look where my chains are now
Death has no hold on me
'Cause Your grace holds that ground

And Your grace holds me now
Your grace holds me now
Your grace holds me now
Your grace holds me now, oh

So here I stand, high in surrender
I need You now
Hold my heart now and forever
My soul cries out

Here I stand, high in surrender
I need You now
Hold my heart now and forever
My soul cries out

Here I stand, high in surrender
I need You now
Grace holds me now
Grace holds me now
Grace holds me now



Healed and forgiven
 Look where my chains are now
 Death has no hold on me
 'Cause Your grace holds that ground
 And Your grace holds me now

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

With hearts lifted by the resurrection of Jesus and the renewing power of love over despair, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the gospel's hope.

For the church worldwide, for all leaders and the community of the faithful, and for the mission that binds us. Strengthen those newly welcomed through baptism, confirmation, or membership in community. Like branches connected to the vine, may our lives be nourished by your word, growing towards your light in unity and love.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For the Earth—our precious island home—from its blooming fields to its vast oceans, and all the wildlife that inhabits them. For the well-being of creation: protect and prosper the natural world. Inspire us to cultivate and care for it as diligently as a gardener tends her vines.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all leaders: that they prioritize the well-being of both people and the planet. Instill in them a commitment to policies that protect land and sea, encourage sustainable resources, and foster peace across borders.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For those in distress: the homeless, the unemployed, the refugee, and all who suffer, especially those we name in our hearts [pause for silent reflection]. Let them feel your presence as a sheltering tree, providing comfort and respite.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

For our local community: for the network of support found in this congregation; for those who are homebound or in care facilities, and those who extend your love through their visitation and care. Encourage us to branch out, creating connections that bear the fruits of your Spirit.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

With gratitude for the saints whose lives have inspired ours, help us to follow their examples in bearing fruit through acts of kindness and courage. At our journey's end, gather us together at your heavenly banquet.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your eternal and all-encompassing love, we commend all for whom we pray, embracing the mystery of faith with hope; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Announcements

Offertory Song - Give Thanks by Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ his Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ his Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,
let the poor say. "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us;

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say. "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us;

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ his Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ his Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,
let the poor say. "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us;

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say. "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us;
Give thanks

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be
signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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 - Promises by Maverick City

Faithful through the ages
God of Abraham
You're the God of covenant
And of faithful promises
Time and time again
You have proven
You'll do just what You said

Though the storms may come and the winds may blow
I'll remain steadfast
And let my heart learn, when You speak a word
It will come to pass

Great is Your faithfulness to me
Great is Your faithfulness to me
From the rising sun to the setting same
I will praise Your name
Great is Your faithfulness to me

When the seasons change
You remain the same
God from age to age
Though the earth may pass away
Your word remains the same, yeah
Your history can prove

There's nothing You can't do
 You're faithful and true
 Though the storms may come and the winds may blow
 I'll remain steadfast
 And let my heart learn, when You speak a word
 It will come to pass

Great is Your faithfulness to me
 Great is Your faithfulness
 From the rising sun
 From the rising sun to the setting same
 I will praise Your name
 Great is Your faithfulness to me,

I put my faith in Jesus
 My anchor to the ground
 My hope and firm foundation
 He'll never let me down, no
 I put my faith in Jesus
 My anchor to the ground
 He's my hope and firm foundation
 He'll never let me down,

I put my trust in Jesus
 My anchor to the ground
 My hope and firm foundation
 He'll never let me down
 Never let me down

I put my faith in Jesus
 My anchor to the ground
 He's my hope and firm foundation
 He'll never let me down
 He'll never let me down

Great is Your faithfulness to me
 Great is Your faithfulness to me
 From the rising sun to the setting same
 I will praise Your name
 In every season, great is Your faithfulness to me

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song - Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now living
 a song of thanksgiving
 to God the creator triumphantly raise,
 who fashioned and made us,
 protected and stayed us,
 who still guides us on to the end of our days.
 God's banners are o'er us,
 God's light goes before us,
 a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
 till shadows have vanished
 and darkness is banished,
 as forward we travel from light into light.



2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



**Please join us in the fellowship hall after worship
to celebrate Arnold Aho's 95th Birthday!!**

Announcements & Events

Sunday, May 5th - Sunday Funday

Join us after worship for laughter & food as we play 'Spring Cleaning White Elephant Bingo'. Bring whatever weird stuff you spot at the thrift store - or have in your home. Wrap it up, bring it with you to the event. There will be a dessert bar too! Sign up sheet online & in narthex

Sunday, May 12th - Mother's Day

In observance of Mother's Day we will not have fellowship hour after worship.

Marlin H. Meyer Educational Scholarship Fund

A \$500.00 scholarship named in memory of Dr. Marlin H. Meyer is available to students pursuing a college degree in education.

Applications are available in the narthex and are due by 5/31/2024

Children's Ministry Update

1. Coming in May: **A Planting Party!** We have a planter box and are asking for donations of 10-12 (2 lb bags) of planting soil and some seedlings or seeds to plant. Our planter is 48"Lx24"Wx 6" Deep]
2. This summer we are planning to have **Pray, Praise, and Play Sundays** once a month in June, July, and August.
They will be during Sunday Service.
More info with dates to come.
3. We'll also plan a couple special events this summer: I'm looking for ideas: **Bowen Park Playground, mini golf, bowling, Kristof's in Round Lake???**
4. **Last day of Sunday School is May 26th.**

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.
Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



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