

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, May 7, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader.  
**Bold text indicates the congregational response.**

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the  
cranberry-colored *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

*Hallelujah! Jesus Lives*

J. Bert Carlson

*We stand as we are able.*

Opening Dialog

P: By your cross, you destroyed the curse of the tree.

**C: By your burial, you slayed the dominion of death.**

P: By your rising, you enlightened the human race.

**C: O benefactor, Christ our God, glory to you.**

Hymn 380

*Hallelujah! Jesus Lives*

*Our Opening Dialog comes from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. It addresses Christ as Benefactor, one who bestows a great gift.*

*Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18*

We begin services in Easter-tide with the Paschal Greeting, which recalls the resurrected Jesus' greeting to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Matt 28:6). The apostolic greeting which follows quotes the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 13:14)

The Hymn of Praise, Worthy Is Christ, is sometimes referred to as the Easter song of triumph and is adapted from Revelation 5:9-13 and 19:4-9.

### Greeting

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

### Song of Praise

### Worthy Is Christ

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

*The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.*

*The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.*

*During the Sundays of Easter, the first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles.*

**Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

*We are seated.*



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60**

**L** A reading from Acts.

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*A psalm is spoken or sung in response to the first reading.*

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*We chant the Psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the **bold** verses.*

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;**  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”

*The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.*

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

L A reading from First Peter.

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

We stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

The cantor sings the first alleluia; all join for the remainder of the acclamation.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father ex - cept through me. *Repeat alleluias*

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

*This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.*

*The Nicene Creed (which begins, "We believe...") has been used in worship since the 5th century*

*We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.*

## Hymn 389

*Christ Is Alive!*

### The Creed

**P** Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

**C** **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in  
accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

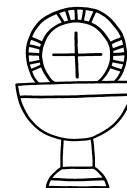
### The Prayers



*Each petition concludes:*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

# THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



*Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God’s promise of peace.*  
2 Corinthians 13:11

## The Peace

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

*We greet one another, saying “Peace be with you.”*

## The Offering

*Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord’s service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.*

### Offertory Anthem

### *The Chief Cornerstone*

Bradley Ellingboe

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

The guards outside the tomb could not contain his might. Christ broke the seal of death and rose into the light.

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

The devil and his lies, the world, the flesh and sin, cannot defeat Christ now nor hedge his victory in.

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

As he was raised from stone we also will be raised to join the heavenly hosts before the throne of grace.

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

So sing, angelic choirs, O hosts of heaven sing! Break forth, O earth, in song and praise your Lord and King!

The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone!

- text by Gracia Grindal

*We stand as we are able and sing the offertory.*

*As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God’s generous goodness.*

### Offertory

### *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

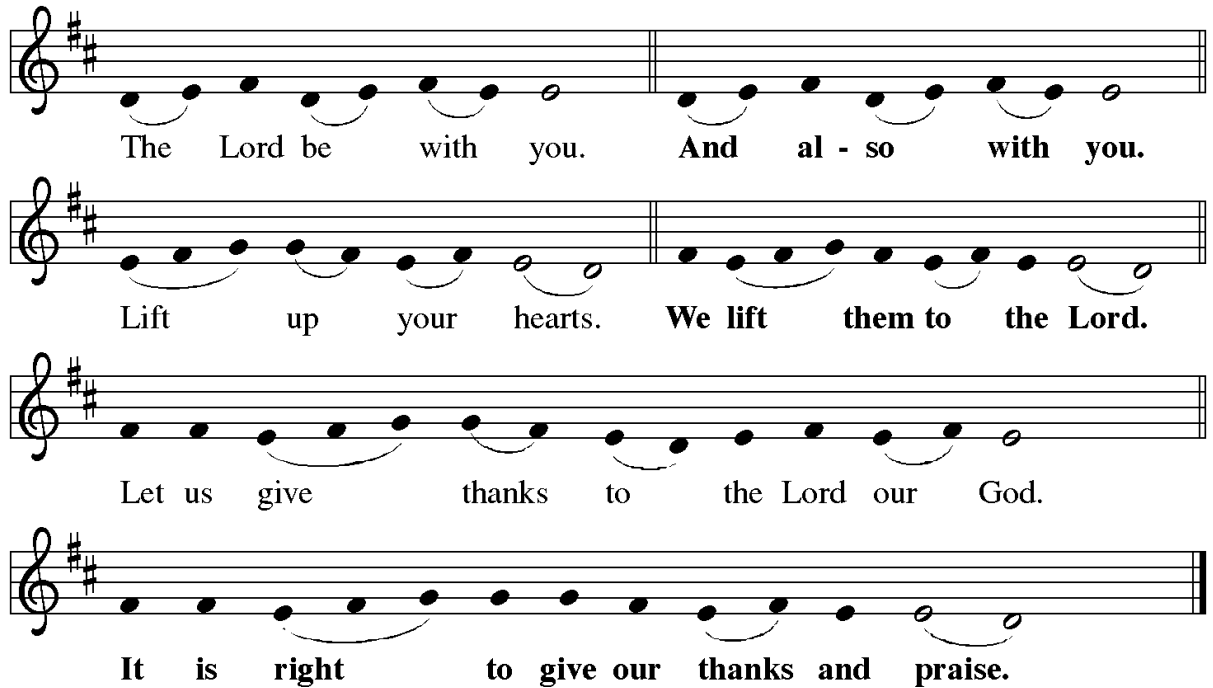
*Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.*

### Offertory Prayer

**P** Let us pray. Generous God,  
**C** **in this meal you offer your very self.**  
**We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.**  
**In the breaking of this bread**  
**reveal to us the Risen One.**  
**In the pouring of this wine**  
**pour us out in service to the world;**  
**through Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen**

*The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.*

### 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.

### The Proper Preface

*The presiding minister continues:* “It is indeed right ...”

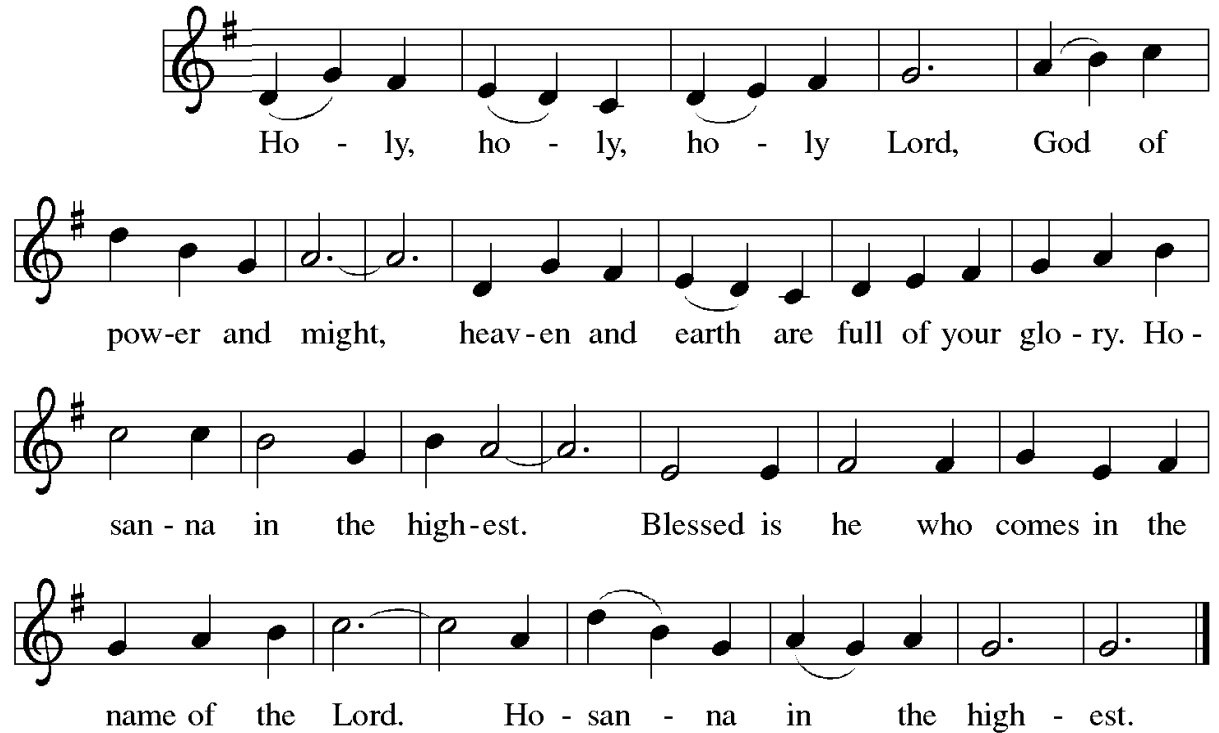
*The proper preface concludes:* “we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”

*The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.*



## Sanctus

*The Sanctus ("holy") echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

*The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.*

P With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
C **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With Saint Mark and your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
C **Amen**

#### The Lord's Prayer

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
C **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**

*The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15*

*We are seated.*



COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD  
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle to receive communion at the altar rail. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



## Communion Song

## *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*

*All sing the refrain; the choir sings the verses, and all repeat the refrain after each verse.*

*Refrain*



The dis - ci-ples knew the Lord Je-sus in the break-ing of the bread.

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia,  
is the communion of the body of Christ

Choir: One body are we, alleluia,  
for though many we share one bread

*Our Communion Song recalls the Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35) as well as 1 Cor. 10:16-17.*

*Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.*

### Post-Communion Blessing

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

C **Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Gracious God,

C **in you we live and move and have our being.**

**With your word and this meal of grace,**

**you have nourished our life together.**

**Strengthen us to show your love**

**and serve the world in Jesus' name.**

**Amen**

### Blessing of Easter

P God the Father, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, continually show us loving  
kindness.

C **Amen**

P God the Son, victor over sin and death, grant us a share in the joy of his resurrection.

C **Amen**

P God the Spirit, giver of light and peace, renew our hearts in love.

C **Amen**

P May almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, continue to bless us, now and  
forever.

C **Amen**

Hymn 377

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

Dismissal

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** Go in peace loving the risen Lord and loving your neighbor. Alleluia, alleluia.

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

Robert Hobby

*We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.*

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

|   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| Sunday, May 7<br><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>  | 11AM<br>Noon | Worship with Holy Communion<br>Spring Fling |
| Monday, May 8                                   | 10AM         | Bible Study                                 |
|   | 5PM—7PM      | The Lion's Share open                       |
| Tuesday, May 9                                  | 6:30PM       | Church Council meeting (Library)            |
| Wednesday, May 10                               | 6:30PM       | Choir rehearsal (Nave)                      |
| Thursday, May 11                                |              |   |
| Friday, May 12                                  | 10AM—noon    | The Lion's Share open                       |
| Saturday, May 13                                | 8PM          | NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)                |
| Sunday, May 14<br><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> | 11AM         | Worship with Holy Communion                 |

### SERVING IN WORSHIP

|                            | <u>Today</u>                | <u>Next Week</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Greeter</b>             | Lisa Altizer                | Howard Barnard   |
| <b>Lector</b>              | Carl Jensen                 | Heather House    |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b> | Nan Keenan &<br>Patti Mills | Donna Abbott     |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>         | Spring Fling!               | Sabina Ugochukwu |



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor*

## **Ministers and Staff**

*Ministers:* Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*Secretary / Financial Administrator:* Kathy Bryant

*Organist / Choir Director:* Jacob Gordon

*Pastor:* James Armentrout

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*The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*—music by Jacob R. Gordon.