



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 8, 2024
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

Improvisation on Spirit, Open My Heart

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 stand as we are able.

Opening Dialog (from Psalm 95)

P O come, let us sing to the LORD;

C let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

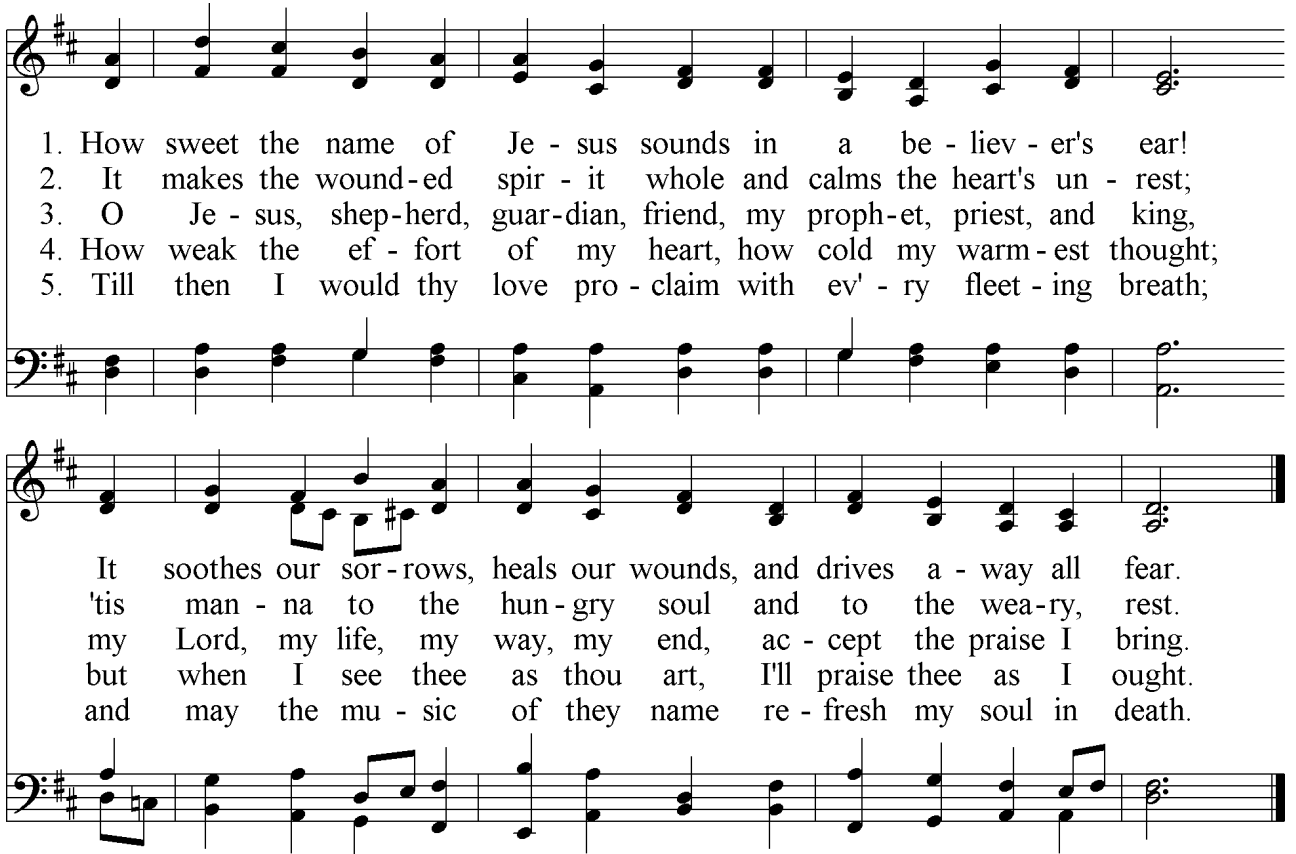
C let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

P O come, let us worship and bow down;

C let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Hymn

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1. How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
 2. It makes the wound-ed spir - it whole and calms the heart's un - rest;
 3. O Je - sus, shep-herd, guar-dian, friend, my proph-et, priest, and king,
 4. How weak the ef - fort of my heart, how cold my warm - est thought;
 5. Till then I would thy love pro - claim with ev' - ry fleet - ing breath;

It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul and to the wea-ry, rest.
 my Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - cept the praise I bring.
 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.
 and may the mu - sic of thy name re - fresh my soul in death.

*The apostolic
greeting quotes
the apostle Paul
(2 Cor. 13:14)*

Greeting

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.

The Song of Praise, or Gloria ("Glory to God..."), is a continuation of resurrection praise. With the angels we sing God's glory revealed in Je-sus Christ. (Luke 2:14).

Song of Praise

Glory to God

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.

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.

The first reading is from the Old Testament.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a

L A reading from Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A psalm is spoken or sung as a response to the first reading.

Psalm 146:1-2, 5-10

*We sing the psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the verses in **bold**.*

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**
the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

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

Second Lesson: James 2:1-17

L A reading from James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

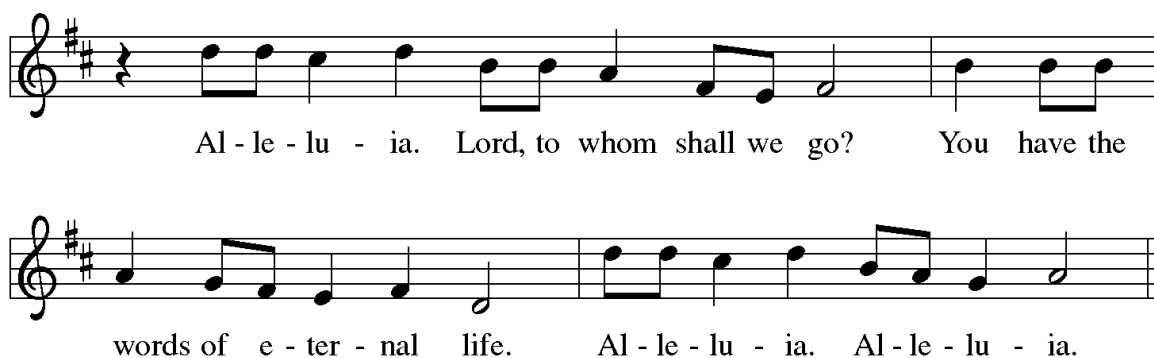
L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

We stand.

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.

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: Mark 7:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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.

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
 liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
 and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
 friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
 day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P Who presents Augustus Crenshaw to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Sponsors: We do.

P In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the

Creed and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for him instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

Sponsors: We do.

P And you, people of God, do you promise to support this brother and pray for him in his life in Christ?

C **We do.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Sponsors & Parents: I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

P Augustus Crenshaw, I baptize you in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Crenshaw:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence.

C **Amen**

The newly baptized is anointed with oil.

P You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The Apostles' Creed (which begins, "I believe...") is traditionally attributed to the first apostles, working under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It has been known to the church since at least the fourth century and is the baptismal creed of the church.

A candle is presented to the newly baptized.

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

P Through Baptism God has made this brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C **We welcome you into the Lord's family.
We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ,
a child of the same heavenly Father,
and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

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.**

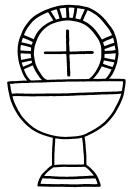
Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11

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 EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

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

Light Dawns on a Weary World


Michael Burkhardt

For text, see Hymn 726.

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

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

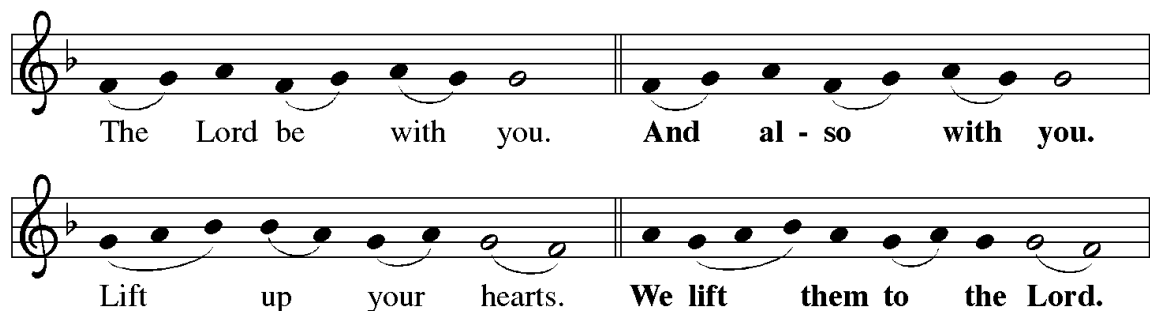
Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,
C **source of every gift of your creation.**
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

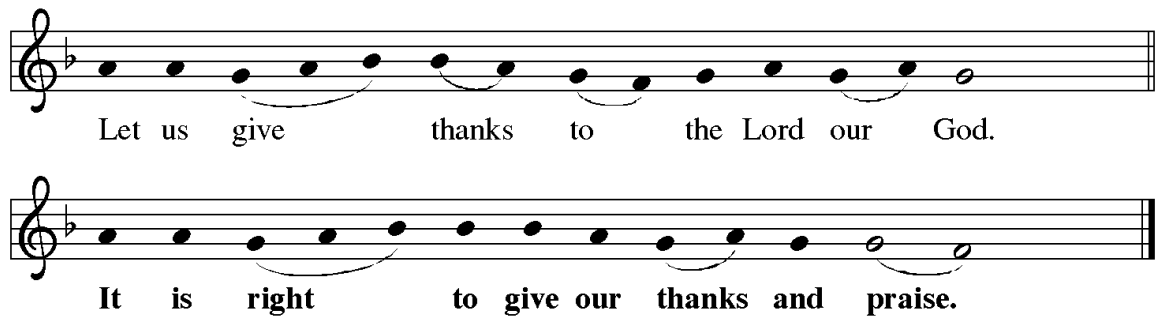
The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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



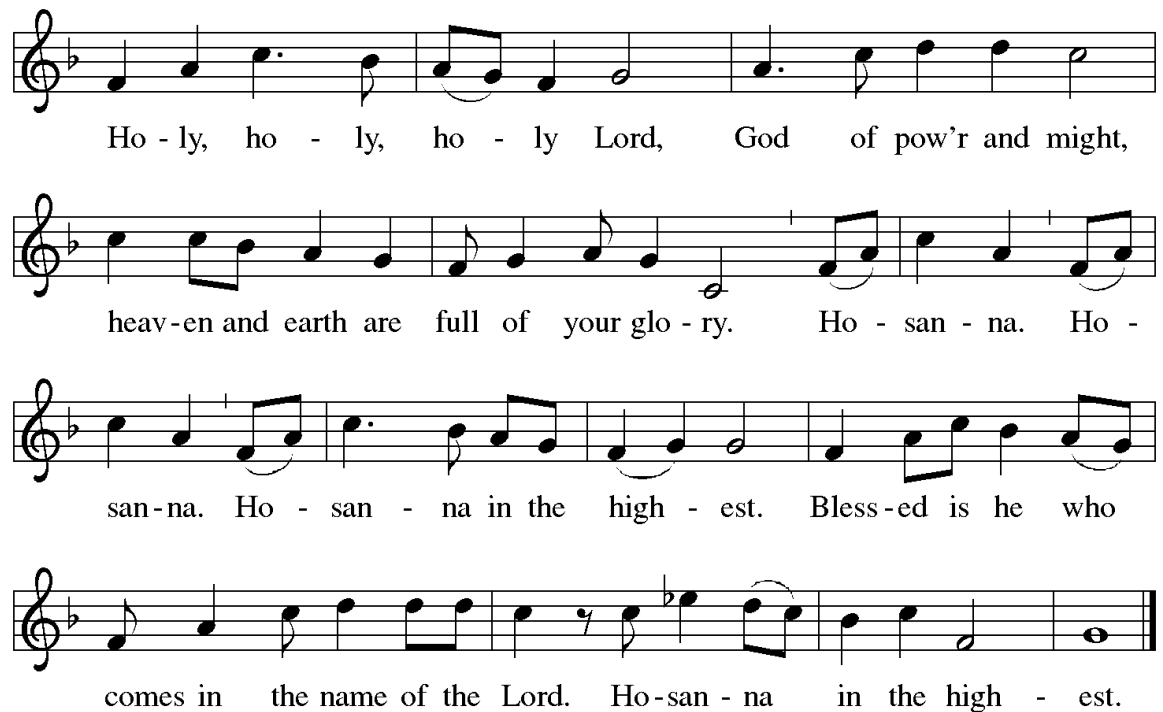
The Proper Preface

The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."

The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

The 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.

Sanctus



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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C 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 congrega-
tion. Luke 11:1-
13; Matthew 6:5
-15*

The Lord's Prayer

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

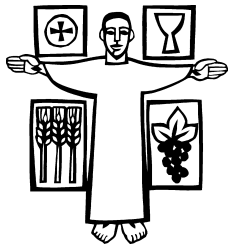
C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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

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.



*Once we have
all received the
sacrament and
returned to our
seats, we cele-
brate the per-
sonal 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. Holy God,

C **you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Blessing

P The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and
remain with you for ever.

C Amen

Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
 2. The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
 3. He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceived;
 4. To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

*We are dis-
 missed
 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.*

Dismissal

P Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** for today are given in memory of Jean Deel by Charlotte & Sonny Scholz.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, September 8	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, September 9	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, September 10	6:30PM	Church Council (Library)
Wednesday, September 11	6:30PM—8PM	Choir rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, September 12		
Friday, September 13	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, September 14	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, September 15	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter	Lois Ashby & Sandy Anders	Laura Bolton
Lector	Karen Arthur	Gary Feazelle
Communion Assistant	Teresa Stowasser & Sabina Ugochukwu	Patti Mills & Lois Ashby
Coffee Hour		

Attendance Last Sunday	29
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$2,307.00
Budget (Pledges/Loose)	\$3,531.00



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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How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds—text: John Newton; music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle.

Spirit, Open My Heart—text: Ruth Duck; music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody, arr. Alfred V. Fedak. Text © 1986 Pilgrim Press; music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.

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Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing—text: Charles Wesley; music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis.