

THE THIRD Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025 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 a congregational response.

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

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, please use the QR code to the right.



arr. Healey Willan

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 Eastertide with the Paschal Greeting, which recalls the resurrected Jesus' greeting to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Matt 28:6). Welcome Prayer Requests

Prelude

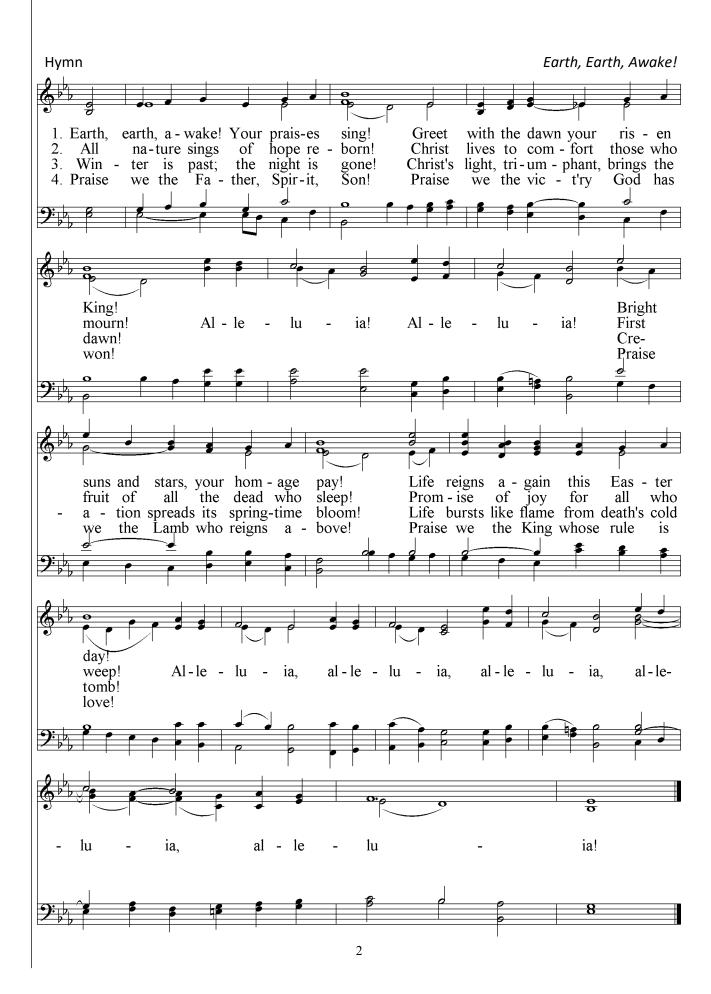
Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Opening Dialog

- A Christ is risen! and we are risen with him.
- C Christ is risen! and life eternal is ours.
- A Christ is risen! and death has met its master.C Christ is risen! and the way to heaven is open.
- A Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn on the following page.

ENTRANCE RITE



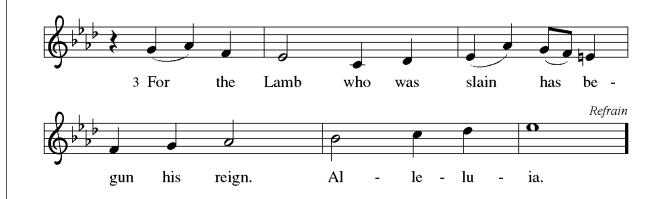
The apostolic greeting quotes the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 13:14)

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 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.





Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

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 Prayer of the Day is tied

to the overall theme of the

scripture les-

times, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calen-

dar.

sons or, some-

During the Sundays of Easter, the first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles. First Lesson: Acts 9:1-20 L A reading from Acts.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

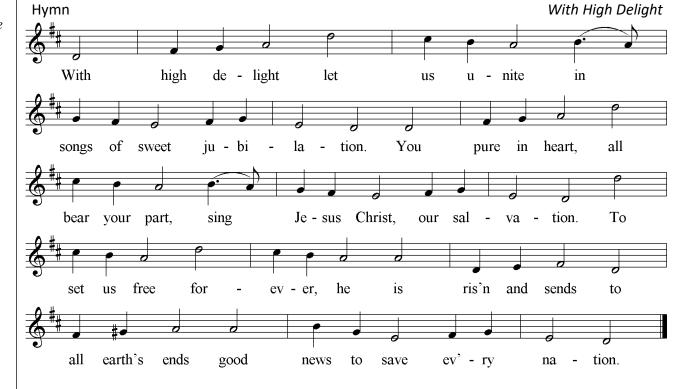
¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias

went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." L The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God. Psalm: 30:1-5, 10-12 A psalm is spo-We chant the psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the verses in **bold**. ken or sung in response to the ¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift-[|]ed me up first reading. and have not let my enemies triumph over me. ²O LORD my God, I cried | out to you, and you restored me to health. ³You brought me up, O LORD, ¹ from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. ⁴Sing praise to the LORD, ¹ all you faithful; give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance. ⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor ¹ lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes [|] in the morning. ¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mer- cy upon me; O LORD, be my helper." ¹¹You have turned my wailing [|] into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. ¹²Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever. Second Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14 L A reading from Revelation ¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped. L The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters. bears the witness of the early church. In *lectionary year C*, the second lesson is from Revelation.

We stand as we are able..

The sequence hymn frames the reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.



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. We stand as we encounter the risen Lord in the reading of the gospel.

The Gospel: John 21:1-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

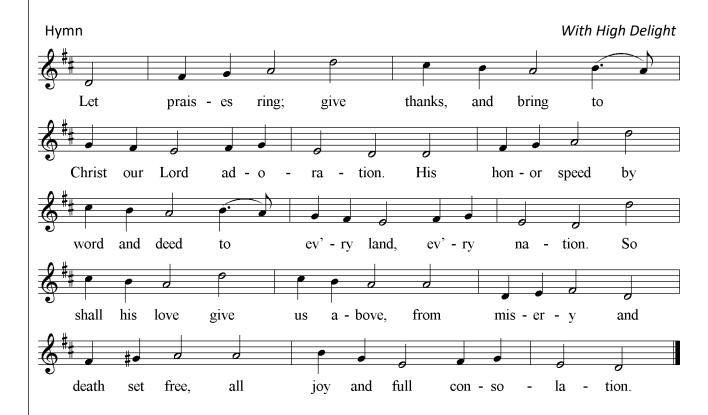
⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I

love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.



We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

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

Hymn Long Before the World Is Waking 1. Long be - fore world is wak-ing, Morn-ing mist on Gal - i - lee. the 2. So they cast, and all their heav-ing Can - not haul their catch a - board; Char-coal em - bers bright-ly burn-ing, Bread and fish up - on them laid: 3. Grief and sigh-ing, Sins and sor-rows, fall be-hind; 4. Christ is ris - en! Je - sus meets us, Feeds and com-forts, par-dons still; 5. Morn-ing breaks, and P From the shore, as dawn is break-ing, Je - sus calls a - cross the sea: in won-der per - ceiv - ing, Cries a - loud, the Lord!" John turns, "It is Je - sus stands at dav's re - turn - ing In His ris - en life ar - raved: Fear and fail - ure. doubt. de - nyi - ng, Full and free for - give-ness find. His faith - ful friends He greets us, Part-ners of His work and will. As Hails the boat of Bids them cast their wea - ry gain. men, net a -Pe - ter waits for noth - ing more, Plung - es in to swim a - shore. of As old His friends to "Here is break - fast; come and eat." greet, All the soul's dark night is past, Morn-ing breaks in joy at last. All our days, ev' - ry shore, Christ is for on ours ev er - more!

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

C

- A Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.
 - 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

The Prayers

Each petition concludes:

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

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

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.



. . .

A Lord, in your mercy,C hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

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."

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Of triumphant gladness;

God hath brought his Israel

Into joy from sadness;

'Tis the spring of souls today,

Christ hath burst his prison,

And from three days sleep in death

As a sun hath risen.

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Come, Ye Faithful

arr. R. S. Thatcher

Now the queen of seasons bright With the day of splendour, With the royal feast of feasts, Comes its joy to render; Comes to glad Jerusalem, Who with true affection Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark portal, Nor the watchers, nor the seal, Hold thee as a mortal; But today amidst the twelve Thou didst stand, bestowing That thy peace which evermore Passeth human knowing.



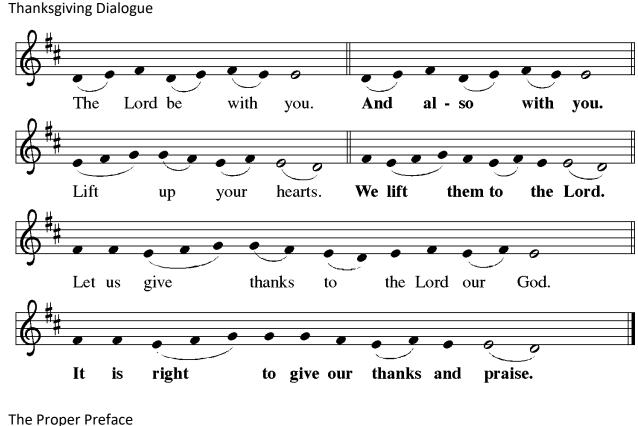
Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

Offertory Prayer

- P Let us pray. Risen One,
- C you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.
 Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen

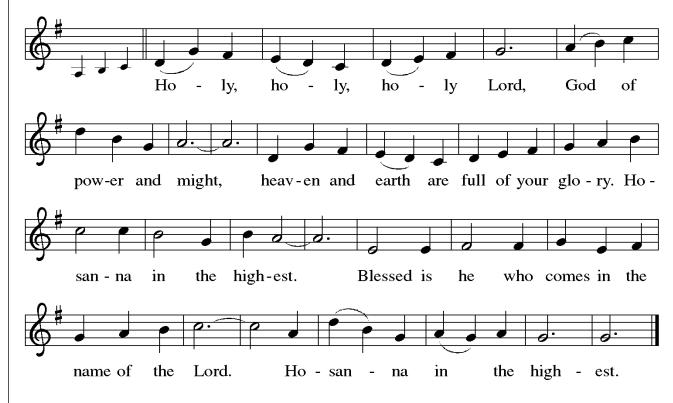
The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

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 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 **Eucharistic Prayer** Prayer recalls Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Р God's saving Your mercy is everlasting acts throughout and your faithfulness endures from age to age. history and, par*ticularly, the* Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. words and ac-Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. tions. the com-Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. mands and Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness promises of Jeto the land of milk and honey. sus at the last supper with his Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. disciples as rec-Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. orded in scrip-Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. ture. 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. 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. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Ρ 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 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 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, and we return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



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

- A Let us pray. Living One,
- C in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen

Blessing for Caroline Wilson

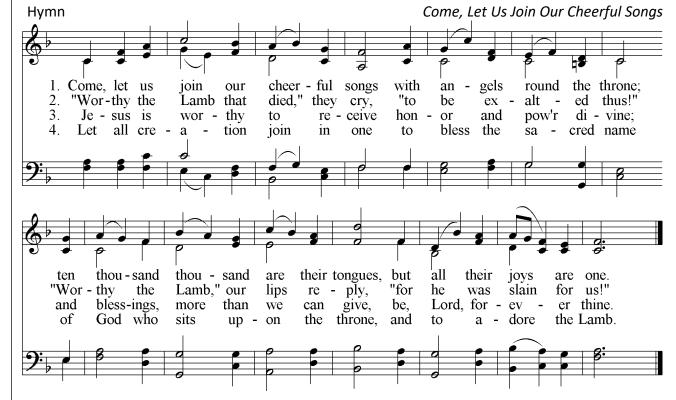
- P Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as Caroline concludes her time with us.
- P All things come to an end, but the teaching of the Lord has no bounds.
- C Lead us in your truth, O God.
- P Everyone will stand in awe and declare God's works; they will ponder what God has done.
- C Lead us in your truth, O God.
- P Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
- C Lead us in your truth, O God.
- P Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon Caroline who has completed another year of learning and growth. Give her courage, patience, and vision as she continues to discern your call for her in your church; and strengthen us all in our vocation of witness to the world and of service to others, for the sake of your whole creation and to the glory of your holy name both now and forever.
- C Amen.

Blessing

- 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

In Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary, the cycle of scripture lessons we follow, the second reading for the Sundays of *Easter is taken* from the Book of Revelation. *Our closing* hymns for the rest of this Easter season were chosen for their reflection of that day's reading from Revelation.

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.



Dismissal

- A Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- A Go in peace loving the risen Lord and loving your neighbor. Alleluia, alleluia.
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Elaine Dykstra

This week at St. Mark's				
Sunday, May 4 Third Sunday of Easter	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion		
Monday, May 5	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open		
Tuesday, May 6				
Wednesday, May 7				
Thursday, May 8				
Friday, May 9	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open		
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)		
Saturday, May 10	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)		
Sunday, May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion		

Serving in Worship				
	Today	<u>Next Week</u>		
Greeter	Howard Barnard	Lois Ashby & Sandy Anders		
Lector	Gary Feazelle	Nan Keenan		
Communion Assistant	Donna Abbott & Evan Odson	Mary Ann Snider & Lois Ashby		
Coffee Hour				

Attendance Last Sunday	52
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$1985.00
Budget (Pledges/Loose)	\$3173.00



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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Long Before the World Is Waking—text: Timothy Dudley-Smith.; music: ZEUCH MICH, Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1698. Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.

This Joyful Eastertide-text: George R. Woodward; music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune.

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs-text: Isaac Watts.; music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis.

With High Delight—text: George Vetter, tr. Martin Franzmann.; music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, Medieval European tune. Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.