



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 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.



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).

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

Welcome
Prayer Requests

Prelude

We stand as we are able .

ENTRANCE RITE

Opening Dialog

P Christ is risen! and we are risen with him.

C **Christ is risen! and life eternal is ours.**

P Christ is risen! and death has met its master.

C **Christ is risen! and the way to heaven is open.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Hymn 377

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

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 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.

Hymn 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

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain



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

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.

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

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

L A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

Psalm 148:1-6, 13-14

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

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, | heaven of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

⁹**mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;**

¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

¹¹**sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;**

¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

¹³**Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven. | Hallelujah!**

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.

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

L A reading from Revelation

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

L The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

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.

Hymn

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that still a-
- bounds: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Sing,
choirs of an-gels, loud and clear! Re-peat their song of glo-ry
here: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Al-le-lu-ia, 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. We stand as we encounter the risen Lord in the reading of the gospel.

The Gospel: John 13:31-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

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

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on things a-
 - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph; grant
 grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 say: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!" Al-le - lu - ia, al - le-
 - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn 631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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,**

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

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 jus-
 tice, for those in
 need. 1 Timothy
 2:1-2*

*Much more than
 a pleasant greet-
 ing—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 min-
 istries of this
 congregation,
 the Virginia Syn-
 od, ELCA, and
 our global mis-
 sion partners.*

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P 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."

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

Come, New Heaven, New Earth Descending

arr. Jacob Gordon

Come, new heaven, new earth descending,
 Come, O gold and radiant grace;
 To our mortal world ascending,
 God has made a dwelling place.

Be here now the holy city:
 Life abundant, joy in worth,
 Words of healing, hands of pity,
 Peaceful hearts and peace on earth.

Here God's people rise beloved:
 Christ has freed the heart from fear;
 God's own Spirit brightly hovers
 As the reign of God appears.

Now the holy gates are opened,
 Past and future pierce us through;
 This, the gold of all our hoping:
 God is making all things new.

Alleluia be our measure;
 Alleluias mark our days;
 May each breath, each deed, each pleasure
 Choir to God our heartfelt praise.



Offertory

This Joyful Eastertide

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 sprung to life this mor - row. Had Christ, who once was
 slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in
 vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -
 ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

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.

Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 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

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.

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 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.

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 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*

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.

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.



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. We give you thanks, generous God,
**C for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
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.

Hymn

Jerusalem the Golden

1. Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest;
 2. They stand, those halls of Zi - on, all jub - i - lant with song,
 3. There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,
 4. O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!

be - neath your con - tem - pla - tion sink heart and voice op - pressed.
 and bright with man - y an an - gel, and all the mar - tyr throng;
 the shout of those who tri - umph, the song of those who feast,
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, that eag - er hearts ex - pect!

I know not, oh! I know not, what joys a - wait us there,
 the Prince is ev - er in them, the day - light is se - rene;
 and they, who with their Lead - er, have con - quered in the fight,
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us, to that dear land of rest!

what ra - dianc - y of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare.
 the pas - tures of the bless - ed are deck'd in glo - rious sheen.
 for - ev - er and for - ev - er, are clad in robes of white.
 You are, with God the Fa - ther, and Spir - it, ev - er blest.

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

arr. Karl Osterland

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, May 18 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, May 19	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, May 20		
Wednesday, May 21		
Thursday, May 22		
Friday, May 23	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Library)
Saturday, May 24	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, May 25 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter		
Lector		
Communion Assistant		
Coffee Hour		

Attendance Last Sunday

Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)

Budget (Pledges/Loose)

\$3173.00



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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Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds—text: Paul Z. Strodach.; music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Köln, 1623.

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

Jerusalem the Golden—text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., tr. John Mason Neale; music: AURELIA, Samuel Sebastian Wesley.