



HOLY CROSS

Sunday, September 14, 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.



Today the church celebrates the festival of the Holy Cross, which originated in the fourth century. The festival celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

The prelude marks the beginning of our preparation for worship. We use it as a time of silent meditation and prayer.

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

Welcome

Prelude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gordon Young

ENTRANCE RITE

We stand as we are able.

Litany

- P O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!
- C **Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.**

Hymn 432

The Head That Once Was Crowned

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 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).

Gloria

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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 lesson is normally from the Old Testament.

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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4b-9

L A reading from Numbers.

[From Mount Horeb the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98:1-4

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

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing.**

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

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.

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.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

L A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Gospel: John 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,

Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:
from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:
who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:

Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;

who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
lure us a - way from you to end - less night.
work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.
you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

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.

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.

Creed

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

C **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**

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

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

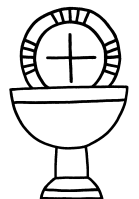
THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

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."



Offertory Anthem

This Cross

Mark Mummert

This cross is the tree in which I take delight; I take delight in its roots; I am extended in its branches.

In my tent I am shaded by its shade; its flowers are my flowers; I am wholly delighted by its fruits.

This cross is my nourishment when I am hungry, my fountain when I am thirsty, my covering when I am stripped. For my leaves are no longer fig leaves, but the breath of life.

This cross is the ladder of Jacob, the way of blessed angels.

This cross is my tree, wide as the firmament, extending from earth to the heavens.

This cross is the tree of life.

- from an anonymous Good Friday sermon

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

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

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

Offertory

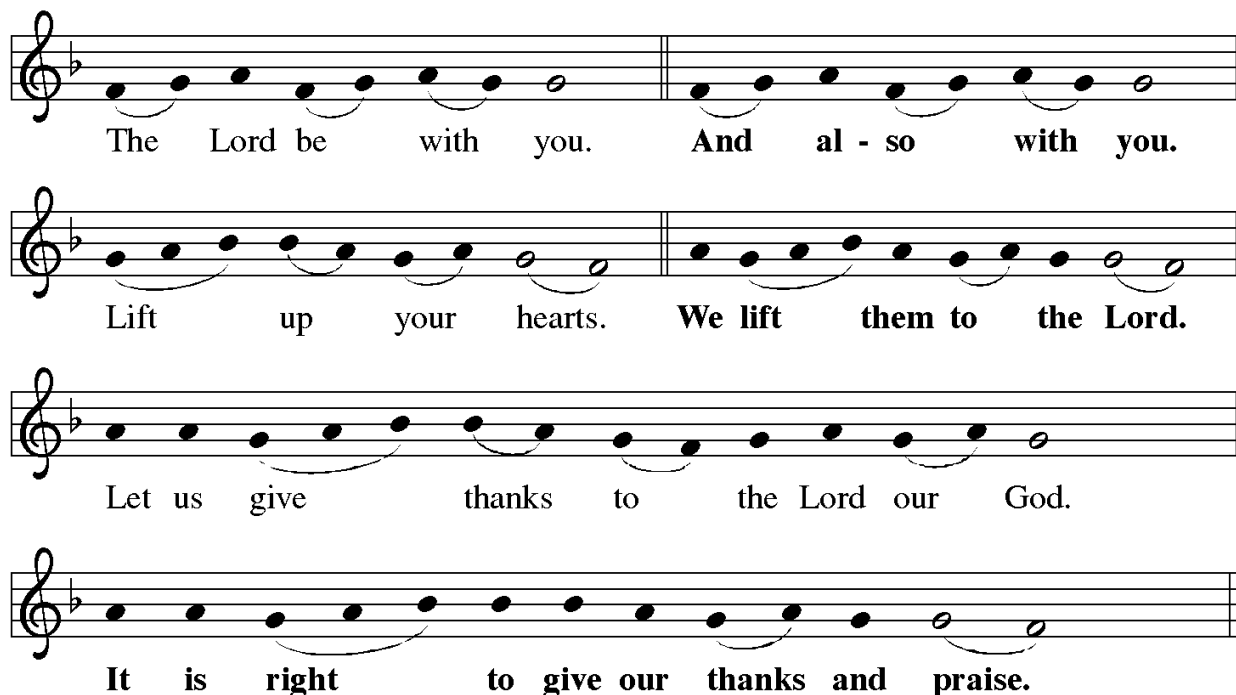


Breathe on us, Spir - it, strength - en us in grace,
 help us to serve in this and ev' - ry place,
 in - crease our faith, as we your work pur - sue;
 lov - ing our neigh - bor, God, and lov - ing you.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord of the harvest,
C we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
 Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
 but on you, who richly provides for us.
 Multiply what we have gathered
 to bless all who are suffering and in need,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

The Sanctus 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.

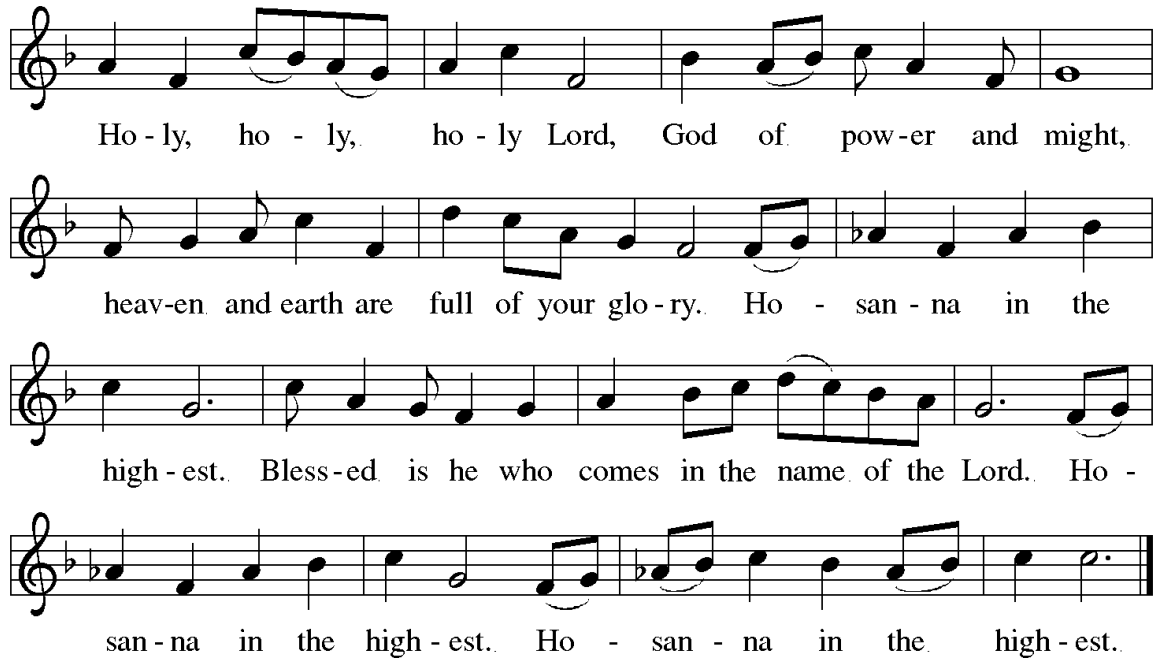
The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

The Proper Preface

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

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

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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 be-
loved prayer
becomes the ta-
ble-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,

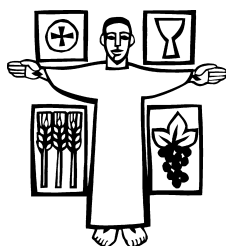
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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.

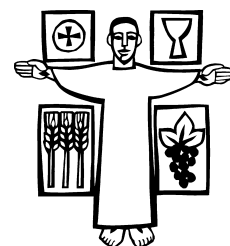


COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD

WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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



*Once we have all
received the sac-
rament and re-
turned to our
seats, we cele-
brate the person-
al 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. O God,

C through this meal you have strengthened us

and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions

with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Blessing

P The blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen

*We are dis-
missed from
worship knowing
that our service
does not end.
Rather, having
been in the pres-
ence of the risen
Lord, we leave
so that our ser-
vice may truly
begin.*

Hymn 803

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Dismissal

P Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Head That Once Was Crowned

Healey Willan

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, September 14	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, September 15	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, September 16		
Wednesday, September 17	6:30PM-8PM	Choir Rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, September 18		
Friday, September 19	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, September 20	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, September 21	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter		
Lector	Eric Mills	Nan Keenan
Communion Assistant		
Coffee Hour		

Attendance Last Sunday	44
Offering Received (Pledges/Loose)	\$2594.00
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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Breathe on Us, Spirit—text and music by Jacob Gordon. Written for the 150th anniversary of St. Mark's in 2019.