



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, July 5, 2026
10:00 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.



Welcome
Prayer Requests

Prelude *Jesus Shall Reign* David Cherwien

We stand as we are able.

Opening Dialog (from Psalm 145)

P The Lord is gracious and merciful

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P The Lord is good to all,

C and his compassion is over all that he has made.

P God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

C God's dominion endures throughout all generations.

Hymn 434

Jesus Shall Reign

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

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 Jesus Christ. (Luke 2:14).

Song of Praise

Glory to God



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 - migh-t-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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.



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.



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.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

We are seated.

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12

L A reading from Zechariah.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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.

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

L A reading from Romans.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

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.

Al - le - lu - ia, 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. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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.

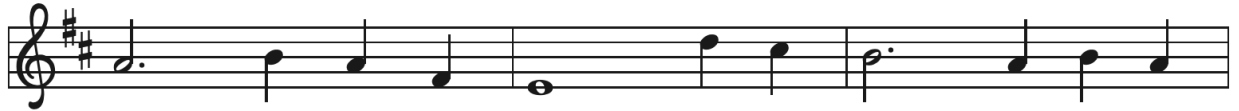
We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

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

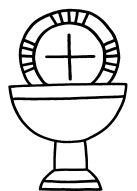
THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

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



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.

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.

Offertory Hymn

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

We are seated for the first three stanzas; we stand as we are able and sing together stanza 4.



1. Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries that they bring.
2. Clouds of light surr - ound the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low - ers ap - pear,
3. Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand dif - frent ways,

We stand as we are able and sing together stanza 4.

4. Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to be sur - prised



Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing; some have songs they want to sing.
saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
but they share one thing in com - mon: they all end in thanks and praise
by the host whose hands are wound - ed, who will o - pen wide your eyes



Oth - ers ask why they're in - vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done.
Pe - ter tells of his de - ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight;
for the host who has in - vit - ed north and south and east and west
when he bless - es bread and breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—



Christ in - sists they all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
Paul re - lates his fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
to con - verge a - round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
and then pass - es wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Loving God,

C we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

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. 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.

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 congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

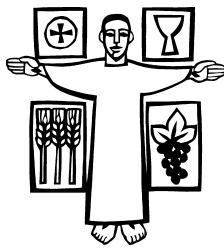
The Lord's Prayer

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.

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.



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.



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. Compassionate God,
C **through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
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 887

This Is My Song

Postlude

God of the Ages

J. Wayne Kerr

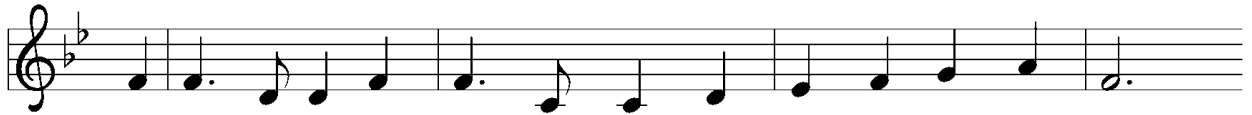
A Liturgy for the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America

As our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings of this good land. At the same time, we remember and lament that all human endeavors fall short of God's good purpose for our lives, and we ask God's guidance on our continued life together in these United States.

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (or America the Beautiful) was written by Katherine Lee Bates in 1893, after a trip to the summit of Pike's Peak in Colorado. Her text extols the physical beauty and the moral ideals of America, repeatedly calling on God to help us live into those ideals.

Hymn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self-con-trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Prayer

P Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 10:17-21

L A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁷For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. ¹⁹You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:43-48

L A reading from Matthew.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Litany

P Almighty God, we acknowledge that our nation has fallen short of your will for us and our own ideals.

We proclaim that all people are created equal, yet we know that the color of our skin or the amount of money in our bank account changes how we are treated by others, including our government.

C Help us care for the orphan and the widow, provide food and clothing to those in need, and love the stranger.

P We proclaim that all are endowed with rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, yet we know life ended by violence all too often, liberty denied to those who are wrongfully arrested, and happiness that seems out of reach for those who are caught in a struggle to survive.

C Grant us grace to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

P God of gods, and Lord of lords, whose rule is endless, we pray for the leaders and people of this nation.

Give your wisdom and guidance to all those who hold elected or appointed office at the federal, state, or local level. Empower them to use their office for the service of all, realizing that all authority is a trust from you.

C Help them to make and administer laws in ways that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness may increase.

The Litany, written especially for this occasion, calls us to acknowledge our failures as a nation—both when judged by our own and God’s ideals for us. It moves on to ask for God’s guidance as we participate in our democracy. Finally, we give thanks to God for our many blessings and ask that God would guide all nations of the world into true freedom.

- P Give your wisdom and guidance to all of us as we seek to be good citizens of this land.
Remind us that you call us to honor those in authority, while also holding them accountable.
- C **Lead us as we participate in this democracy through our voting and advocacy to seek true equality for all.**

- P God of Freedom, from whom true liberty and justice flow, we give you thanks
for this good land, our heritage
for the blessings of liberty
for those who sought to form a more perfect union
for those who have called out our imperfections
for those who fought to defend our nation

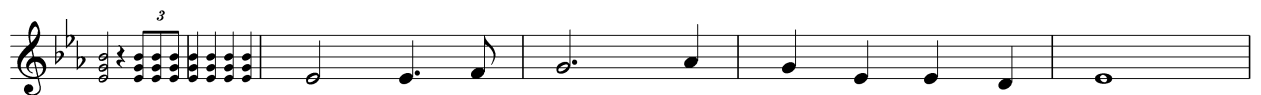
Inspire all peoples of the earth to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you that your true freedom may be known throughout the world. This we pray in the name of our Sovereign and Savior, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen**

God of the Ages
was written for
July 4 centennial
celebrations by
Episcopal priest
Daniel Roberts.
The hymn, like
America the
Beautiful, calls on
God for guidance
that we might
walk in God's
paths for us.

Hymn

God of the Ages



1. God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y hand
2. Thy love div - ine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
may true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,
fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine;



our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
all glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Dismissal

- P Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, July 5	10AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, July 6	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, July 7		
Wednesday, July 8		
Thursday, July 9		
Friday, July 10	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30 PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, July 11	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, July 12	10AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter		Sandy Anders & Lois Ashby
Lector	Donna Abbott	Nan Keenan
Communion Assistant	Mary Ann Snider & Jerry McDaniel	
Coffee Hour		



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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O Beautiful for Spacious Skies—text: Katherine L. Bates; music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward.

God of the Ages—text: Daniel C. Roberts; music: NATIONAL HYMN, George W. Warren.