

**May 2, 2021**  
**9:30 a.m. Worship Service**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**Council at  
Jerusalem**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church Waukesha, Wisconsin**

Sundays and Seasons v.20190805.0949 Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number is: SAS011746 No copyright infringement is intended.

**St. Mark's navigation for return to in-person worship continues. "Yay God"**

**All of us at St. Mark's are on this learning curve together.**

**To continue having safe return to in-person worship kindly follow these safety protocols:**

- **Use the Sunday school entrance, you can be dropped off at the courtyard.**
- **Remain seated in your assigned seat once in church.**
- **Wear your mask at all times - including when singing - and avoid lowering your mask. Masks are to cover mouth and nose at all times.**
- **The offering plate is in the Narthex. Your offering can be placed before you are seated or as you exit. Please do not leave your seat during service to place your offering.**
- **Communion is done as a group after Pastor completes the Words of Institution.**  
**You can open the wafer part in advance. Pastor will tell the congregation when to take your wafer and drink your cup. As you exit, the usher may have a basket for your cup or you can dispose of your cup in the black basket in the Narthex as you leave.**
- **The ushers will dismiss by sections and rows starting at the back, please remain seated until directed.**  
**Practice social distancing as you exit.**
- **Please assist us in recycling. If not keeping your bulletin, as you exit place your bulletin and any other loose paper in the blue recycling bin.**
- **Exit church and converse outside in the courtyard or parking lot with physical distance.**

- Remain seated in your assigned seat once in church.
- Wear your mask at all times - including when singing - and avoid lowering your mask. Masks are to cover mouth and nose at all times.

**+ GATHERING +**

**CALL AND RESPONSE**

P: God's salvation is for all!

**C: All lands and all peoples.**

P: No separation will stand

**C: Between us and our sisters and brothers.**

P: Let us praise the Lord of love,

**C: Whose grace has redeemed us all.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Risen Lord,

**C: We admit that we are slow to believe, and even slower to follow where you lead us. We doubt your promise, divide your people, and fail to proclaim the power of your resurrection. We choose to live small lives when you have given us the biggest gift of all: your eternal life. Forgive us. Raise us up to a place where we can serve you faithfully.**

P: Christ is arisen, bringing gifts of life, mercy and pardon for sin! Believe that you are forgiven, and go out and live in the joy of your Lord's resurrection in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace from where you are seated.*

*If you are joining us for worship online, please share a sign of peace in the comments section of the live stream.*

The word "Peace" is written in a large, elegant, black serif font. The letter "P" is particularly large and features a prominent, sweeping flourish that extends to the left and then curves back towards the word. Below the "P" and the "e" are several smaller, intricate flourishes that resemble calligraphic scrolls or loops.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Glory Be to God in Heaven



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on "Gloria in excelsis Deo"  
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## GREETING

A: 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: Loving God, You showed your followers that their salvation didn't depend upon culture or traditions, but on the grace freely offered by your Spirit. Show us the same open vision of mercy offered to all, regardless of background or practice, for the sake of the whole world.

**C: Amen.**

## + WORD +

### FIRST READING: Luke 2:29-32

29 “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,  
as you have promised.

30 I have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared for all people.

32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations,  
and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ACCLAMATION

#### Alleluia! Lord and Savior

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior; o - pen now your sav - ing Word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Text: Gracia Giltrud, S. 1943

Music: UNSUB. HL. 8036. 10. B. Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

Text © 1988 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

## **SECOND READING Acts 15:1-19**

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” 2 Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question. 3 The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted. 4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. 5 But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.” 6 So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. 7 At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. 8 God knows people’s hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. 10 So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear? 11 We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.” 12 Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13 When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. 15 And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written: 16 ‘Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it, 17 so that the rest of humanity might seek the Lord, including the Gentiles— all those I have called to be mine. The Lord has spoken—18 he who made these things known so long ago.’ 19 “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON “Managing the Mess” Pastor Andy Fetters**

**A brief silence follows the sermon.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



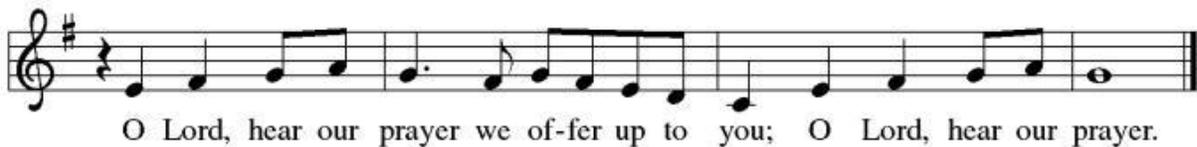
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We offer prayers during this time of meditation and singing. If you have prayers you would like to have offered up during this time, please place names and concerns in the prayer request box upon entering the sanctuary or hand to the host. *If you are joining us for worship online please begin typing names in the comment section so we might pray continuously during worship.* We will sing the song responsively after each petition is offered.

## O Lord, Hear Our Prayer *Prayer Response*



Text and music: Ralph C. Sappington, b. 1952  
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

- The offering plate is in the Narthex. Your offering can be placed before you are seated or as you exit. Please do not leave your seat during service to place your offering.

**OFFERING** *We give thanks for our continued offerings during this time when we are unable to gather together physically. You may mail your offering to church (424 Hyde Park Ave Waukesha WI 53188); if you prefer to give digitally, follow this [link](#). If you'd like to **text** your contribution, please use this number: (262) 383-2338. We are very grateful for all your offerings and give thanks to God, the giver of all things.*

## OFFERTORY SONG

### Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of five lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The fourth line ends with a double bar line. The fifth line ends with a double bar line.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson  
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: When we give of ourselves, you prosper our hearts. Receive and bless these gifts and use them and us for the ongoing work of your merciful kingdom, for the sake of Jesus our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Please see back of bulletin for a complete list.

- **Communion is done as a group after Pastor completes the Words of Institution.**

**You can open the wafer part in advance. Pastor will tell the congregation when to take your wafer and drink your cup. As you exit, the usher may have a basket for your cup or you can dispose of your cup in the black basket in the Narthex as you leave.**

**+ MEAL +**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

- The ushers will dismiss by sections and rows starting at the back, please remain seated until directed. Practice social distancing as you exit.
- Exit church and converse outside in the courtyard or parking lot with physical distance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Where to find information:

- Welcome2stmarks.com
- facebook.com/welcome2stmarks
- Church email address is: welcome2stmarks@gmail.com
- Weekly email blast (if you don't receive these, contact Marcia at [marcia1@wi.rr.com](mailto:marcia1@wi.rr.com))

### Cultivating Curiosity

- Explore questions and topics that our community is curious about. Simply send in your curiosity questions to the office email (welcome2stmarks@gmail.com) and we will post them in the Lookout and email blast with answers from our leadership.

## Welcome Back! Stepping into In-Person Worship

Your Church Council has determined that the COVID-19 cases in Waukesha County have fallen to levels at which we are safe to invite people back into the sanctuary. We are actively planning and preparing for progressive, gradual return to in-person worship. We are asking for your sincere understanding as we navigate this plan keeping everyone's safety as our highest priority. In all situations, we want to err on the side of love for our neighbor and know that change will be inevitable. Patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as we strive to make the most appropriate decisions for the people of God in our church at this time.

Safety protocols will be maintained including masking, social distancing, controlled entry, and controlled exit. Masked singing will be allowed. Keeping safety a priority, there may be a few other modifications to the service such as length of the service.

**Going forward to accommodate social distancing, you must make a reservation in the week prior by calling the church office between the previous Sunday at 11:00am through Tuesday at 9:00am for every Sunday that you wish to worship in person.**

When you call, leave your name, phone number, the number of people attending in your party, and their names. Reservations are first come, first served. You will receive a call confirming your reservation. Seating will be assigned on Tuesday. You will need to call for each Sunday that you wish to attend. This reservation system and in-person guidelines will be further evaluated by the Council at their April meeting.

We are excited to reunite with everyone to renew our commitment to St Mark's mission to gather, grow, and go out to serve our community once again.

In Christ's Service,

St Mark's Church Council

## **New Ideas for Blessings Box**

People from our church and neighborhood have been giving and receiving food from the Blessings Box. If you have helped make our Blessings Box fruitful, you are invited to brainstorm about new ideas for making it more successful. We are considering applying for a grant to help this project. For more information, contact Pastor Andy or Marcia.

## **Midweek Worship Resumes on Facebook Live**

Refresh your spirit and focus on God with Midweek Worship on Wednesdays at 6:30pm on Facebook Live.

## **New Zoom Meeting Numbers**

We will be using the church's Zoom account for online meetings and small group gatherings in the future. Here are the numbers:

**Faith Formation Gatherings**, including Bible Study  
Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Pass: 945456

**Church Meetings**  
Zoom: 823 2326 4353 Pass: 830997

### **For the Good of the Community:**

#### **Opportunities for offering:**

- Stock our Blessing box with dry goods for our community needs.
- Drop off food for the Waukesha Food Pantry near the main entrance of church.
- Special Music (pre-recorded and shared in worship).

#### **Opportunities for Mission:**

- Help us Gather (Worship, Property, Finance)
- Help us Grow (small group ministries and faith formation)
- Help us Go (evangelism and community connections)

#### **Opportunities for responding to God's promises:**

You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people, (Live among God's faithful people, let Iron sharpen Iron, the stories of our lives reflect God's story in the world. True Christian community.)
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, (Let God's word sink into our lives as affirmation as God's children and a calling to account to change the ways we live, even as it bears witness against the ways we live... participating in hatred and violence. Living in systems that are unequal to our brothers and sisters of different colors and race. That God's word might comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.)
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to share the good news. (Tell the ways in which God has transformed you. Let your life be the sermon the people you know hear and see. Walk wet in your baptism.)

- serve all people, following the example of Jesus, (Let us serve all people. We will need to establish relationships with people different from ourselves... POC, Who understand sexuality different than hetero, people who live in different economies,)
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (To strive for justice and peace. When we pray Your kingdom come, we insist that our calling is to renounce evil and the evil one and make the world look more like the kingdom of God.)

### **What Needs Announcing?**

Please reach out to Pastor Andy to add announcements.

### **This Week at St Mark's**

#### ***MONDAY, MAY 3***

- Call in to reserve seating for May 9 worship
- Staff Meeting at 11:00am
- Weight Loss Conversation at 3:30pm Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Pass: 945456

#### ***TUESDAY, MAY 4***

- Call in by 9:00am to reserve seating for May 9 worship

#### ***WEDNESDAY, MAY 5***

- Bible Study at 3:45pm Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Pass: 945456
- Midweek Worship at 6:30pm on Facebook Live

#### ***THURSDAY, MAY 6***

- Bible Study at 10:00am Zoom: 817 7030 6574 Pass: 945456

#### ***SUNDAY, May 9***

- Worship at 9:30am on Facebook Live and in the sanctuary with reserved seating
- Pastor Andy Fetters preaching
- Call in after 11:00am to reserve seating for May 16 worship



Council at  
Jerusalem

May 2, 2021  
Acts 15:1-18

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotion.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Loving God, you showed your followers that their salvation didn't depend upon culture or traditions, but on the grace freely offered by your Spirit. Show us the same open vision of mercy offered to all, regardless of background or practice, for the sake of the whole world. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. (Acts 15:8-9)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

The early Christian church had a debate that brought the concept of grace to the surface. It would be God's gifts, not people's adherence to the laws, that would cleanse and save.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point? Do you live as though you have been saved by God's grace or by your good works? What difference does it make? How does your faith inform your behaviors?

How do you handle conflict? What has been the most effective way for you to resolve conflict?

For the hiltles: What do you do when you get angry?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless your conflicts. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Take a conflict resolution course online or in person. Use the tools you gain to resolve your conflicts.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [deeperaff.com/daily-devotions](http://deeperaff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *The Conversion of Lydia*, Acts 16:11-15

Tuesday: *Paul and Silas in Prison*, Acts 16:16-40

Wednesday: *Paul Sails for Rome*, Acts 27:1-12

Thursday: *The Storm at Sea*, Acts 27:13-38

Friday: *The Shipwreck*, Acts 27:39-28:16

Saturday: *Paul Preaches in Rome*, Acts 28:23-31

Copyright © 2020 Chang Scott. Used with permission. Find more at [www.ChangScott.com](http://www.ChangScott.com).