



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY**

*"A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament proclaiming the redeeming love of
Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service."*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Sunday, Christ shares the image of friendship with us. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
The ark carried your creation through the flood.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a wilderness pool a traveling Ethiopian
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river, your beloved child was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice and praise you through the risen Christ,
our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



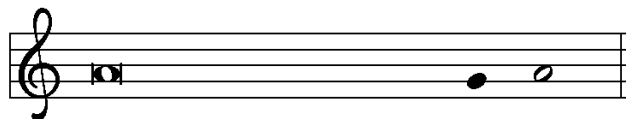
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

GREETING

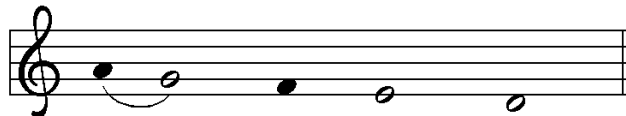
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

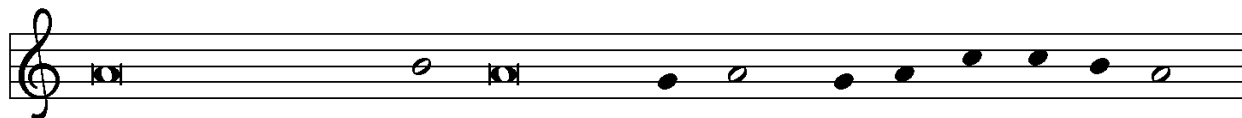
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



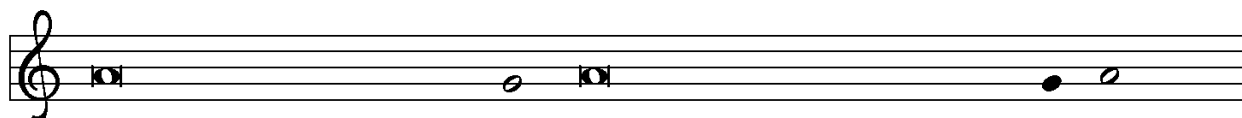
Lord, have mer - cy.



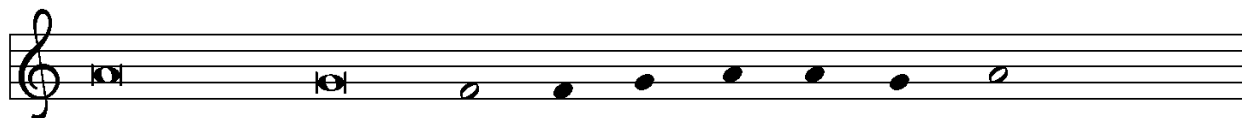
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



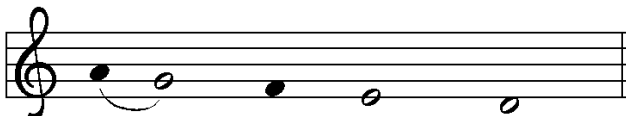
Lord, have mer - cy.



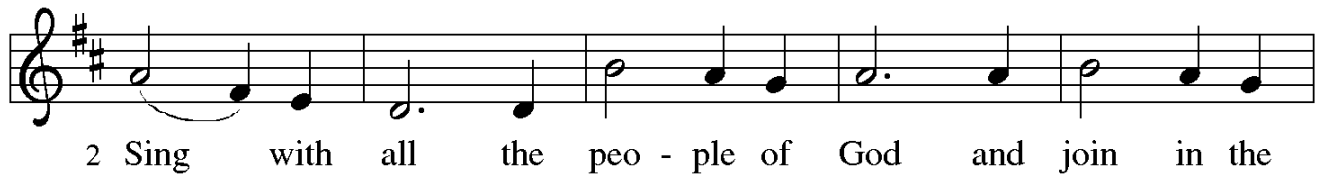
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



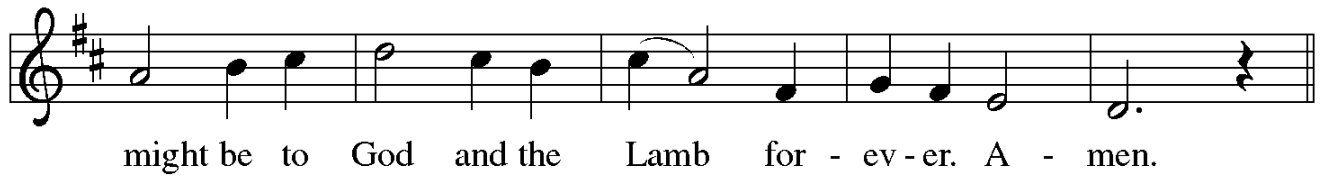
Lord, have mer - cy.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

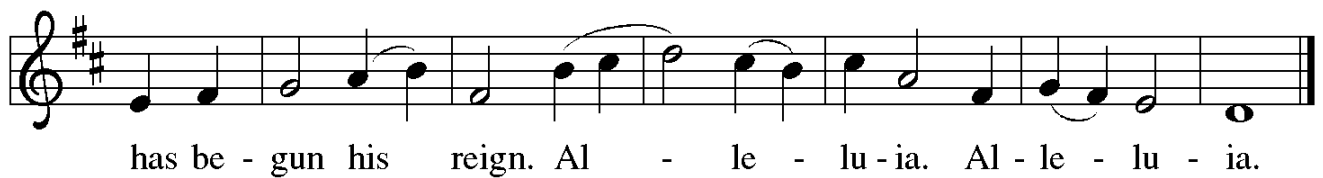


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

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

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

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

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

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the
earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6


¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey God's commandments. And God's commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God's commandments and abide in God's love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

This is the good news of the gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Please stand as you are comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY

GREAT GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US

ELW # 358



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Cathy, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of St. Mark.

Sponsors (Melissa Walker and Carol and Haig Kasabach): On behalf of St. Mark, we present Catherine Walker for membership.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Cathy, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for this new member in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome Cathy in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnerships with local, statewide, and national partners.



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

The first line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with slurs underlining the phrases.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The second line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with slurs underlining the phrases.

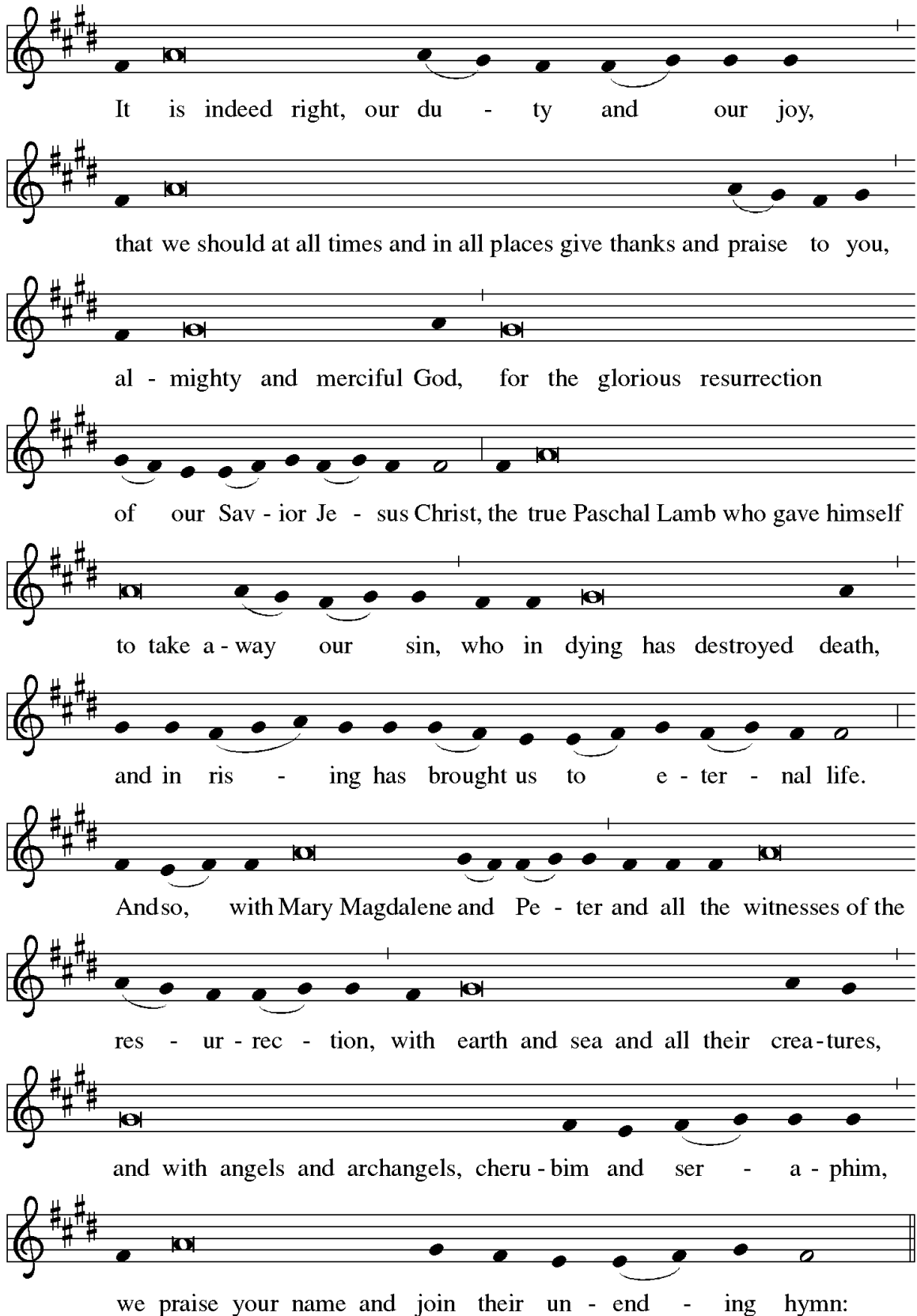
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The third line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with slurs underlining the phrases.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The fourth line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with slurs underlining the phrases.

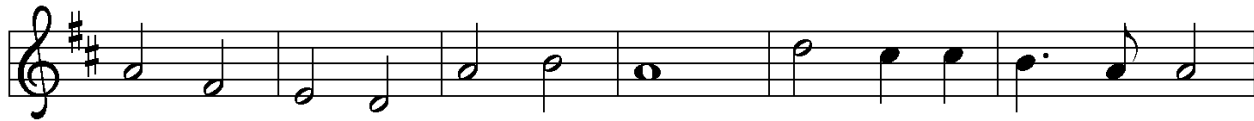
PREFACE



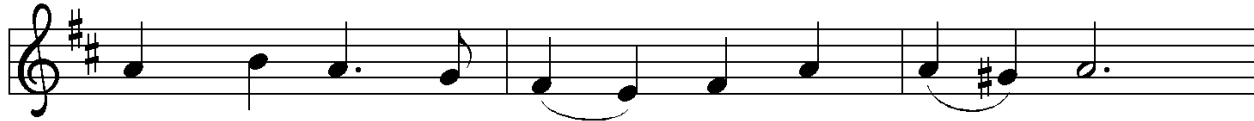
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection
of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself
to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,
and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the
res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourished the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
would be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy God, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Receive our praise and petitions,

for all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, saying:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

We share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers, wine, and juice. Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or age.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

COMMUNION HYMN

JESUS LOVES ME

ELW # 595



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. **Amen.**



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Lector: John Hoge

Communion Assistant: John Hoge

Ushers: Michaela Arzt and JoAnne Malta

Livestream Operator: Jody Hodge

Altar Guild: Karen Breninghouse and Lisa Fritzingler

Pastor: Rev. Linnéa Clark

Office Administrator: Robin Harris

Minister of Music: John Kling

Ministers: People of St. Mark

Worship with Us

*We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service)
and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). You are always welcome.*

*We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.
Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.*

Serve with Us

We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 13,000th lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse (kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.

Contact Us

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

*You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org
or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.*

*You can also find us online at stmarkhamilton.org
and at facebook.com/stmarkhamilton.*

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