

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 4, 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

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, of miracles, of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

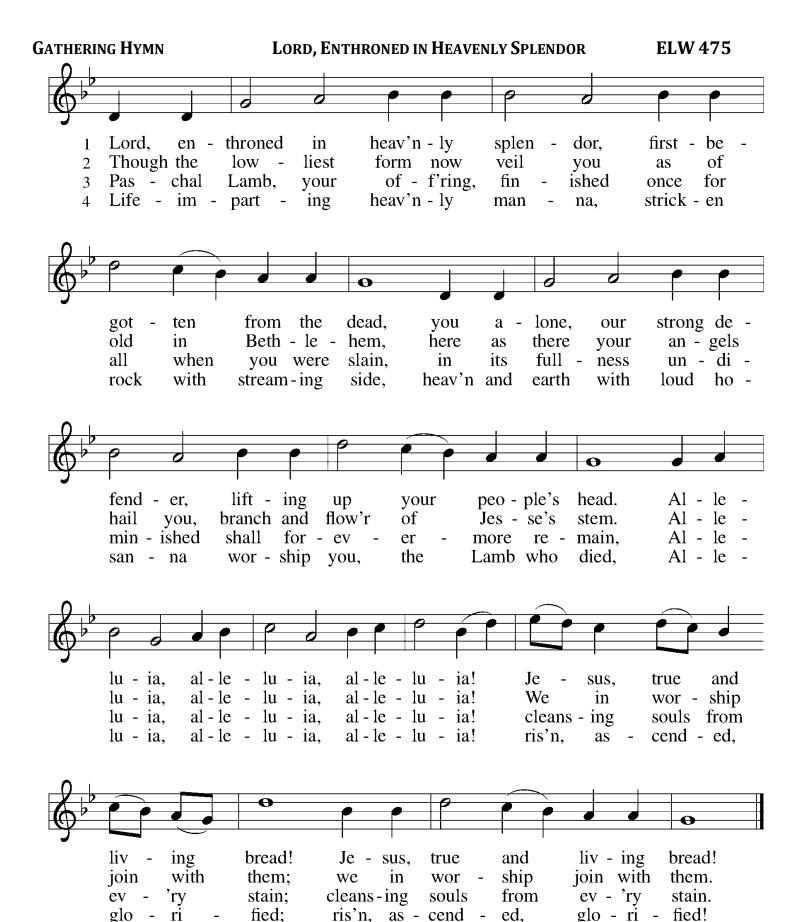
God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings.
Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?
Share the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

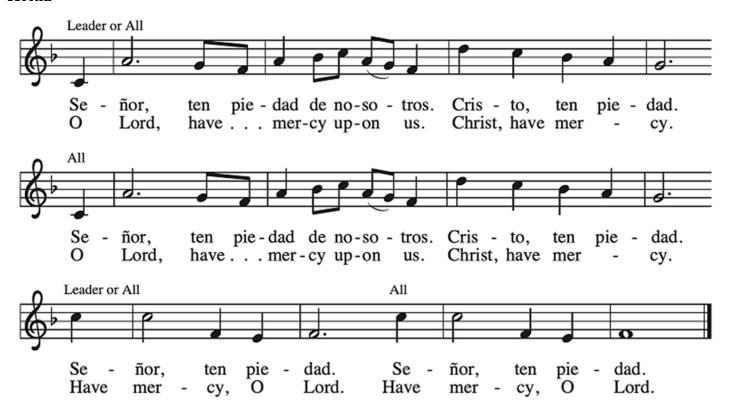


GREETING

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



HYMN OF PRAISE



gloria al Espíritu!

glory to the Spirit!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

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

FIRST READING: EXODUS 16:2-4, 9-15

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for God has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

PSALM 78:23-29

- ²³ So God commanded the | clouds above and opened the | doors of heaven,
- ²⁴ raining down manna upon | them to eat and giving them | grain from heaven.
- ²⁵ So mortals ate the | bread of angels; God provided for them | food enough.
- ²⁶ The LORD caused the east wind to blow | in the heavens and powerfully led out | the south wind,
- ²⁷ raining down flesh upon | them like dust and flying birds like the sand | of the seas,
- ²⁸ letting them fall in the midst | of the camp and round a- | bout the dwellings.
- ²⁹ So the people ate and | were well filled, for God gave them | what they craved.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Parent of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

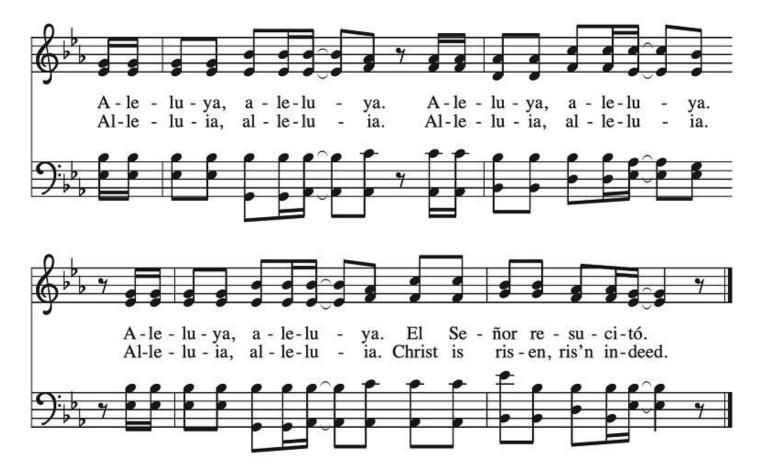
⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Creator has set God's seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one whom God has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is God who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

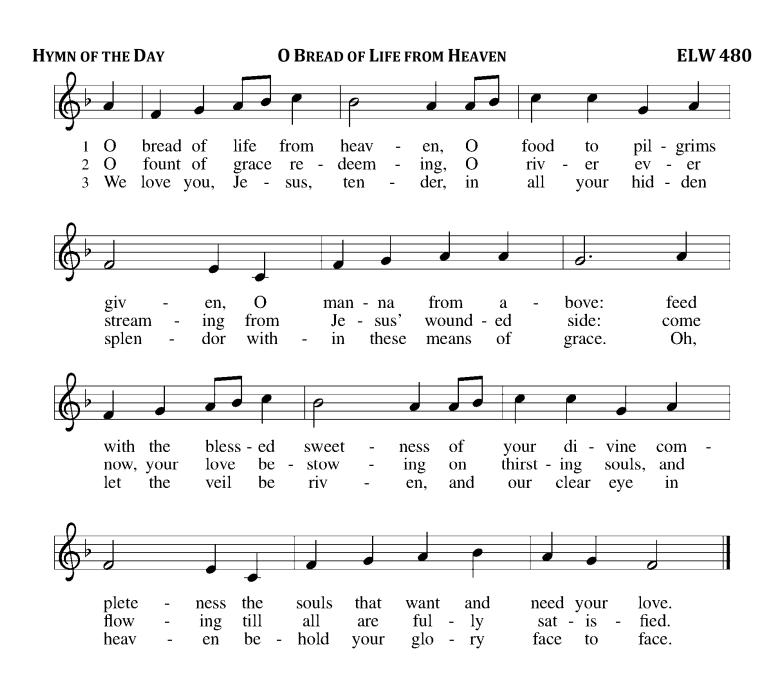
This is the good news of the gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are comfortable.



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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.

Please stand as you are comfortable.



OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us. Make us to be your body for the life of the world. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher, your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word. All that has life and breath praises your name. For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, preached your mercy, and called us to faith. For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word, that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption, and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world. For your Word in our lives, we pray to you, O God.

We pray to you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer, for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior. **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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen**



- God be with you till we meet a gain; by good coun-sels guide, up hold God be with you till we meet a gain; ho ly wings se cure ly hide 1 you,
- you,
- God be with you till we meet a gain; when life's per ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you; dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain. put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;





DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Preacher: John Kroschwitz

Lector: Jeff Clair

Ushers: Karl Fritzinger and Bobbie Huffman Livestream Operator: Jody Hodge

Altar Guild:

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.

Our Wednesday service is on vacation this week.

We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Classes resume in the fall.

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 14,000th 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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