



# **ASCENSION OF JESUS**

**JUNE 1, 2025**

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**HAMILTON, NJ**

*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

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast.*

## GATHERING

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

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.  
**Amen.**



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;  
 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;  
 4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:  
 on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;  
 to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,  
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,  
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;  
 where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams  
 We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.  
 and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.  
 and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.  
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

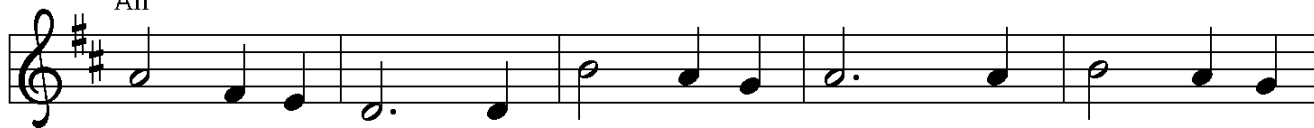
*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

*All*



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



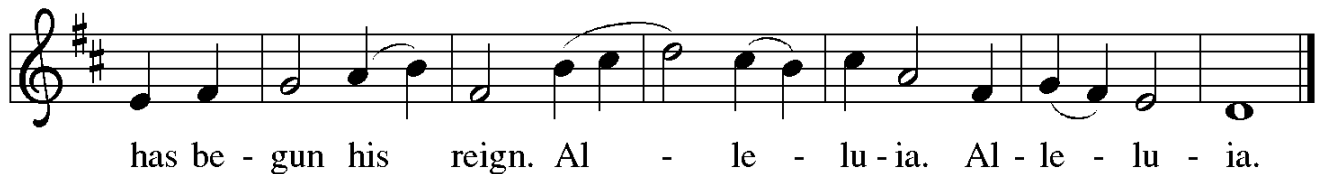
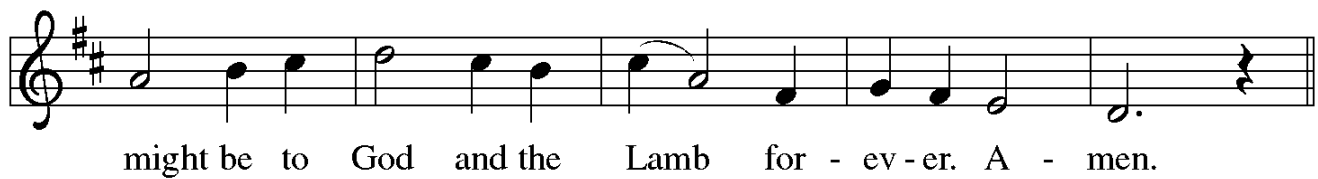
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



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



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ 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 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of God. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that God has set by God's own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

<sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 47**

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup> **For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:  
a great king over | all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup> who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;

<sup>4</sup> **who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram’s horn.

<sup>6</sup> **Sing praises to | God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup> For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.

<sup>8</sup> **God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**

<sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

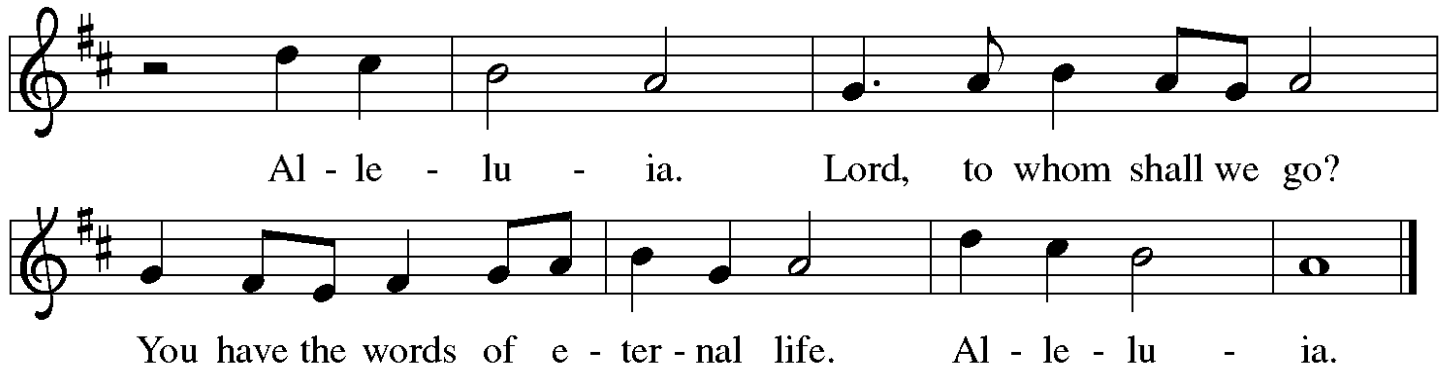
### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Christ, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of God’s power for us who believe, according to the working of God’s great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at God’s right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And God has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the good news of the Gospel.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
 4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
 stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers  
 sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
 sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
 cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!



## 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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of abundance, your love can be seen in each plant, each creature, and every landscape. Nurture crops as they develop. Protect new animal life. Restore habitats destroyed by natural disaster or human neglect. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you are enthroned above all. Bring an end to divisions that break down the human family. Enable cooperation between governments and international organizations to pursue peace and equity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you console all who are hurting. Help us recognize the deep hurts of grief, loneliness, broken relationships, and trauma in our midst. Guide us in caring for one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of change, you promised to be with your disciples as they faced an unknown future. Amid graduations and other transitions, sustain your people with your presence and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**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.*

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## OFFERING HYMN



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

bless - ing. 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.

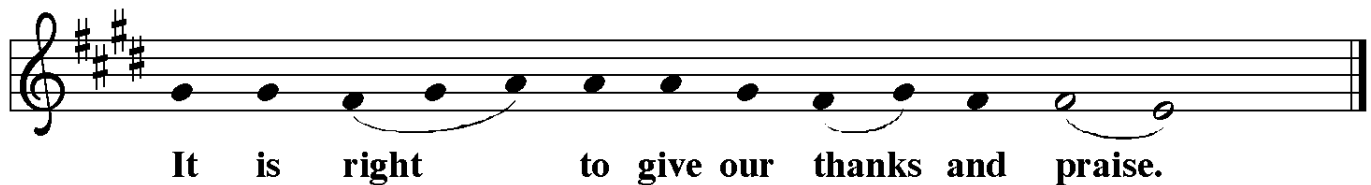
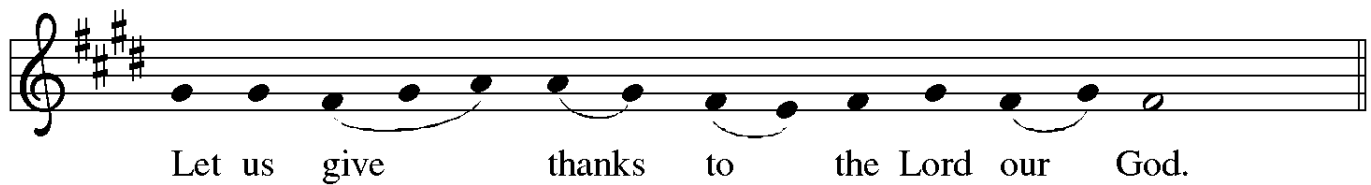
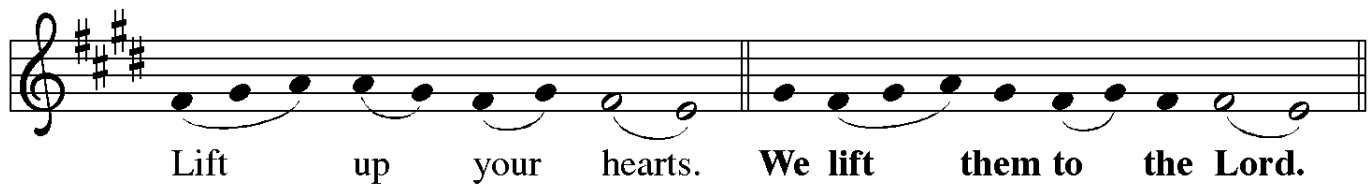
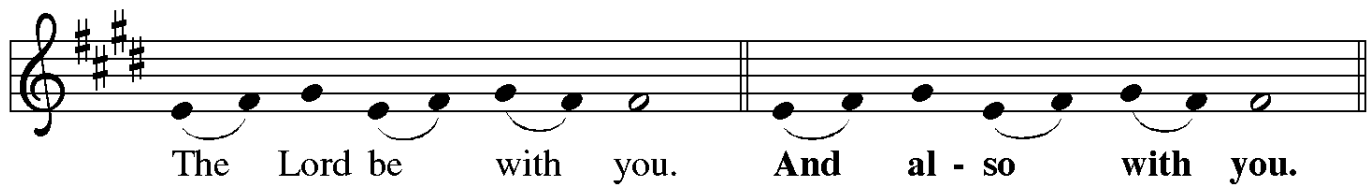
## OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,

**You have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that  
we will live as your risen body in the world.**

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, who en - throned forever at

your right hand intercedes for us as our great high priest.

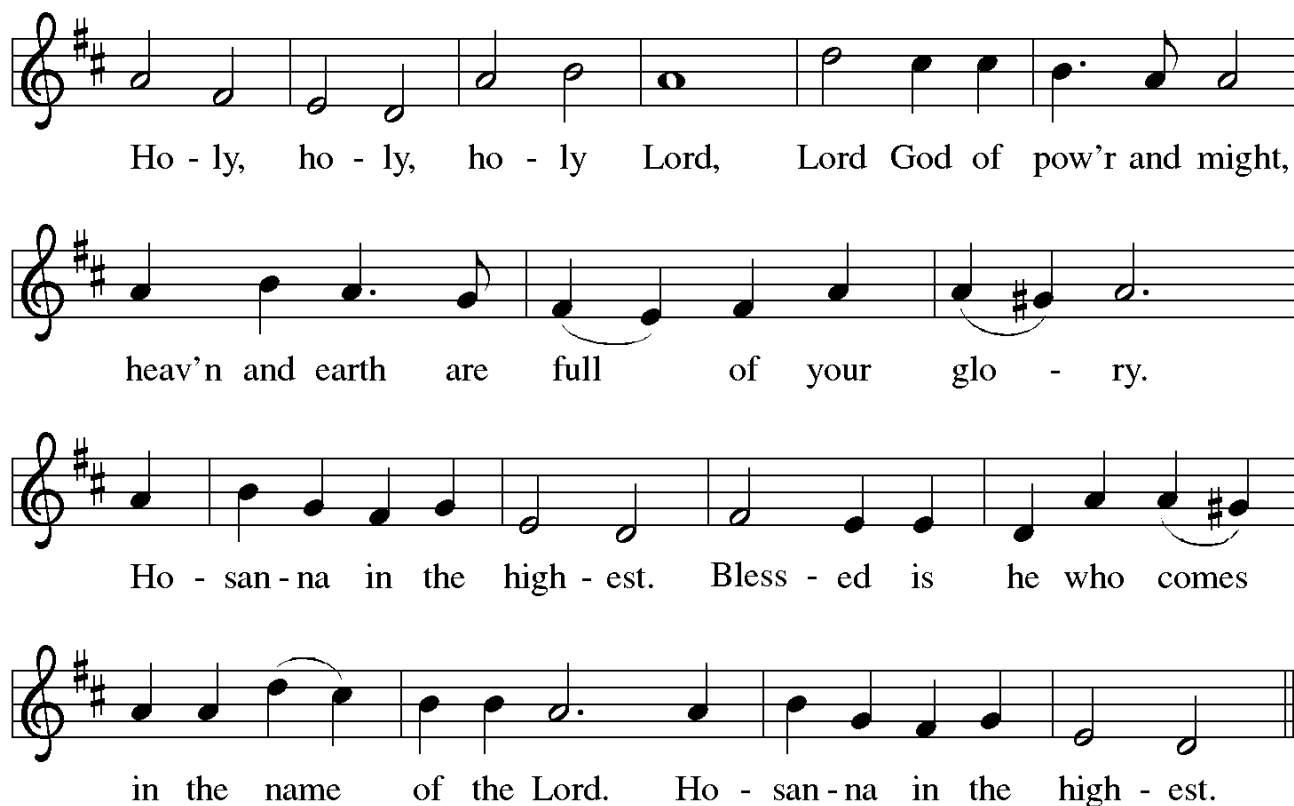
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the

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:

## 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, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify,  
you we worship and adore.

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,  
might 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.*

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
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.

Holy and benevolent God,  
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.

**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**

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*Please be seated.*

*At St. Mark, we share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers and with red wine and red grape juice.  
Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of age, religious background, or life experience.*

*Please be seated.*

**COMMUNION SONG: LAMB OF GOD**



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



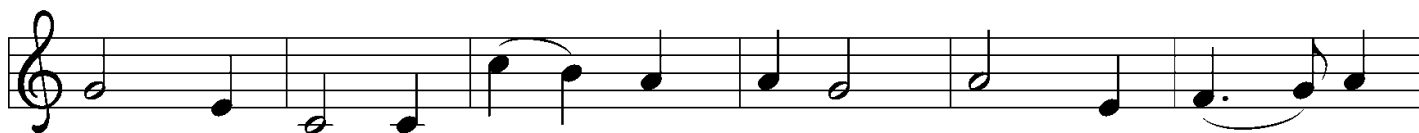
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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



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



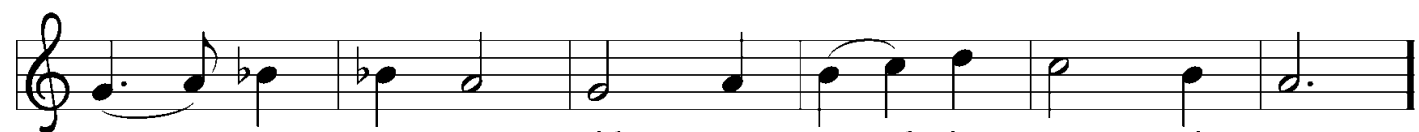
1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

*Refrain*

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.





- 1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
- 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
- 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
- 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
- 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

*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**

Living One,

**In this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SENDING**

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

## **THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS**

You are conducting a conversation  
with song and instrumentation,  
writing scripture on our hearts  
with music that even dementia remembers.

We'd like to think these sounds are inspired  
by the choirs of angels in heaven,  
the saints before us, and  
the music that has always been in our souls  
just waiting to come alive in community.

But you guide our breath into one  
and teach us to let it out beautifully and together.  
Bless each pitch you give us,  
the long introductions while we find the right page,  
the quiet mastery and late-night rehearsals.  
Your melodic sermons are a sweet marriage between  
the church that has been  
and the one we are still becoming.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## **BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

***Thank you to today's worship leaders!***

**Lector:** Eileen Mansfield  
**Communion Assistant:** Eileen Mansfield  
**Ushers:** Michaela Arzt and JoAnne Malta  
**Livestream Operator:** Michaela Arzt  
**Altar Guild:** Tim Hoh and Nadine Mileski  
**Pastor:** Rev. Linnéa K. Clark  
**Church 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).*

*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 16,500<sup>th</sup> lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse  
(kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.*

**Contact Us**

*You can reach our office at [admin@stmarkhamilton.org](mailto:admin@stmarkhamilton.org) and at (609) 585-7087.*

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

*You can also find us online at [stmarkhamilton.org](http://stmarkhamilton.org)  
and at [facebook.com/stmarkhamilton](https://facebook.com/stmarkhamilton)*

Liturgical texts copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023104. Used by permission.

Music reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-728813. All rights reserved.

Blessing for church musicians from Speak it Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together, Meta Herrick Carlson. Fortress Press: 2020. Used by permission.

Scripture texts from New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible, copyright © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.