

# St Mark Lutheran Church

## Service of Holy Communion



*Welcome to this divine service of worship!*

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

**Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.**

*The obelisk ( † ) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.*

*The double obelisk ( ‡ ) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.*

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*June 21, 2026: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

*9:00am & 11:00am*

**Prelude:** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

*Joe Utterback*

### Preparation for Worship

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### †Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

‡ Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

Text: Charles W Everest, 1814-1877

Tune: BOURBON, W Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight  
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,  
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;  
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;  
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,  
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross  
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.  
 to save your soul from death and hell.  
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

†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.**

# †Gloria

*Refrain*




Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

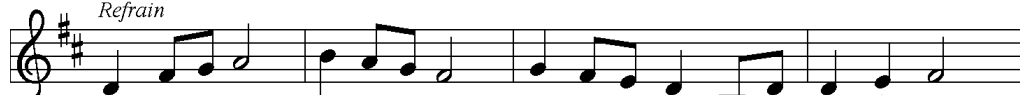


1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



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

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, 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.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, 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.

*Final refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### †Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading: *Genesis 21:8-21***

A reading from Genesis:

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

**Psalmody: *Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17***



Bow down your ear, O LORD, and † answer me,  
for I am poor † and in misery.

**Keep watch over my life, for † I am faithful;  
save your servant who † trusts in you.  
Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you † are my God;  
I call upon you all † the day long.  
Gladden the soul † of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift † up my soul.  
For you, O Lord, are good † and forgiving,  
and abundant in mercy toward all who † call upon you.**



Give ear, O LORD, † to my prayer,  
and attend to the voice of my † supplications.  
In the time of my trouble I will † call upon you,  
for you will † answer me.  
Among the gods there is none like † you, O Lord,  
nor anything † like your works.

**All the nations you have made will come and worship † you, O Lord,  
and glori- † fy your name.  
For you are great; you do † wondrous things;  
and you a- † lone are God.**

Turn to me and have mer- † cy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child † of your handmaid.

**Show me a sign of your favor, so that my haters may see it and be † put to shame;  
because you, LORD, have helped me and com- † fortified me.**

### Second Reading: *Romans 6:1b-11*

A reading from Romans:

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

†Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -  
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

†Gospel: *Matthew 10:24-39*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to them:] “A student is not above the teacher nor a slave above the lord; it is enough for the student to be like the teacher and the slave like the lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in valley of Hinnom. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. Yet even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not take for granted that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a butcher’s knife. For I have come to set a person against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be of one’s own household. Whoever likes father or mother more than me is not in balance with me, and whoever likes son or daughter more than me is not in balance with me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not in balance with me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

†Hymn: **Lift High the Cross**

Text: George W Kitchin, 1827-1912

Tune: CRUCIFIER, Sydney H Nicholson, 1875-1947

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## †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.**

## #Prayers of Intercession

*Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us sit or kneel in prayer for the church and the needs of the world.*

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect your people whose lives we have marginalized or to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with difficulty. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us in life for our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*We commend our spoken and unspoken prayers in trust to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.*

## †Peace and Offering Prayer

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!*



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



bles - 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 dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



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

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

From the beginning, Good God,  
your Voice has called creation,  
your Breath has blessed the waters,  
your Word has spurred us to trust your Holy Spirit,  
our comforter, advocate and guide.

By your goodness, O Promised Holy Spirit, we remember our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks,  
broke it and gave it for them to eat, 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 them to drink, saying,  
"Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you  
and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension, we recall his word  
that God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.

Come, Holy Spirit, on these gifts of bread and wine  
that we may receive Jesus' body and blood in, with and under them;  
and with sighs too deep for words intercede for us to the mercy of Our Father  
to whom, with you, is all honor and glory through, with and in Christ:  
One God, in your holy Church both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

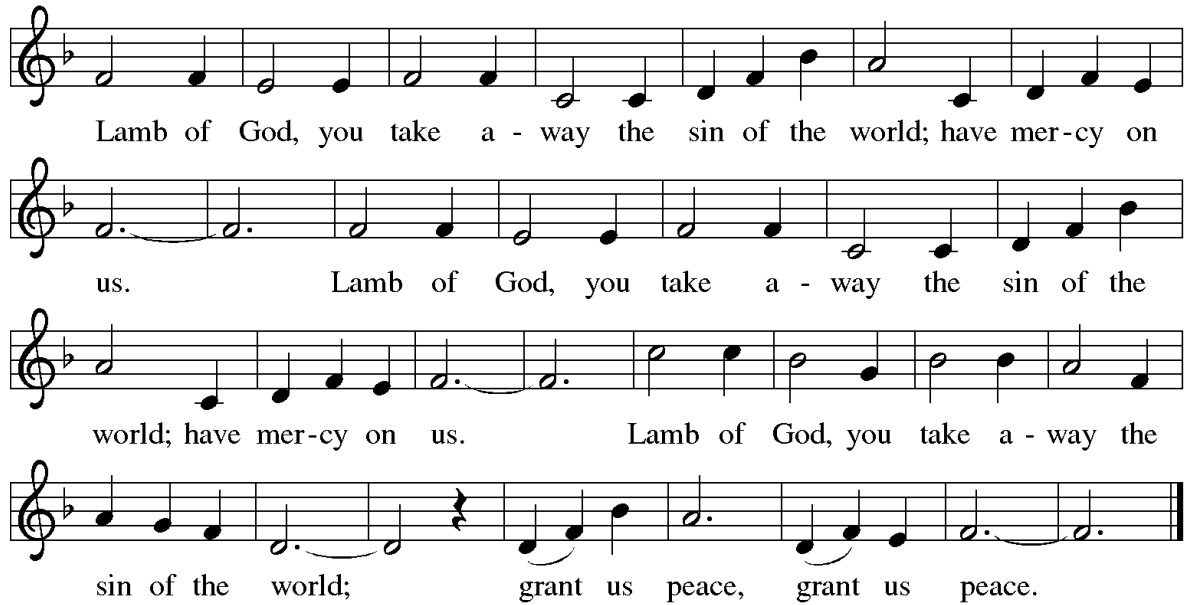
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

## Agnus Dei



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.

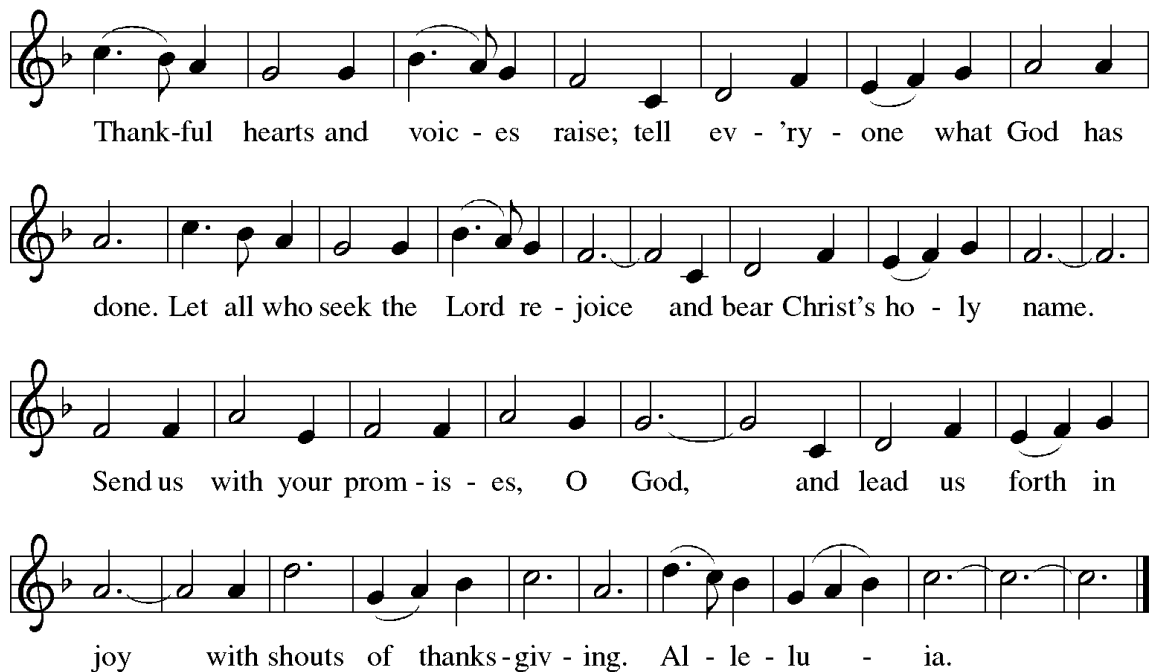
**Communion** — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

**Communion Music:** *Now We Offer*

*Jeffrey Honore*

### †Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

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



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has  
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in  
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

†Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD smile on you and be gracious unto you;  
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

†Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

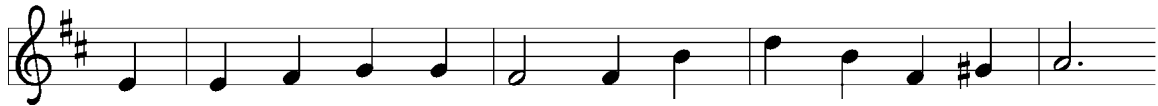
*Text: John E Bode, 1816-1874*  
*Tune: MUNICH, Meiningen, 1693*



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

†Dismissal — *from Romans 12:1-2*

I urge you, kindred, by God's mercies: Be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Voluntary No 4*

*Arlen Clarke*

## A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice eucharistic hospitality. We invite all baptized Christians to receive Christ's body and blood; all are welcome to receive God's blessing. We trust "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared" to receive this sacrament.*

*We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands, our pastor dips the host in the cup to offer the bread and wine together; for the host without wine, please ask the pastor or lay a hand on your chest. Christ is fully present in each of the elements.*

*Communicants come forward to the feast in continuous procession. Christ is for you.*

## PJ's reflection on the Gospel

It's catechism, Christ, beyond command:  
this way you teach us how our life will be—  
that we're not God, but it's enough to stand  
beside you, Christ, in God's proximity—  
though not by glory, rather by the cross—  
for life you teach us rather openly,  
which feels within death's shadow like the loss  
of all that matters, yet which sets us free  
by balancing our life instead by love—  
by love in you that lifts our love for all—  
for life as love, the way you're speaking of  
to teach your gospel, sends us with your call  
to fear no trouble from mortality,  
but find your love to raise its bended knee.

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