

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
APRIL 6, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
HOLY COMMUNION**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service  
9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir  
11:00 am - Quiet Service**

**Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor  
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Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)**

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Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

**Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir  
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Email: [denisehirn@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)**

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**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY**

*Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists**

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war. process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

\*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

## PRELUDE

*Psalm 51*

Anglican Chant

### GATHERING: Psalm 51:10

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
C and renew a right spirit within me.

### \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.*

P Gracious God,

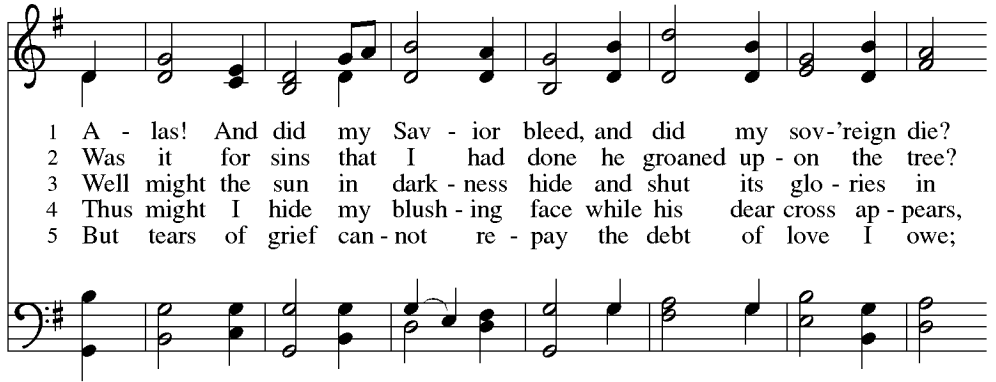
C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

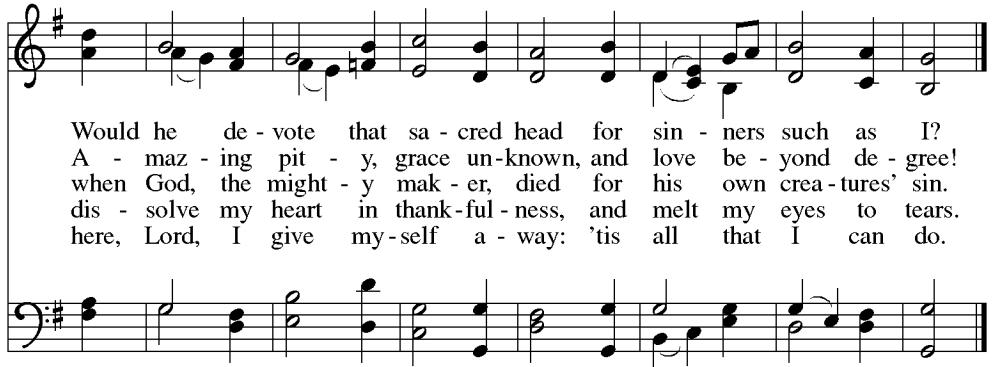
C Amen.

\*GATHERING SONG

## Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?  
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,  
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

\*GREETING

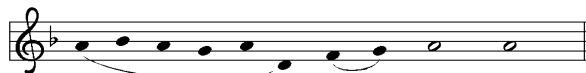
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

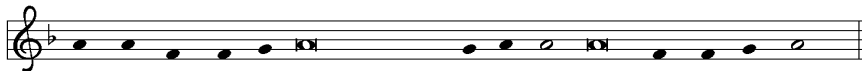
# \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



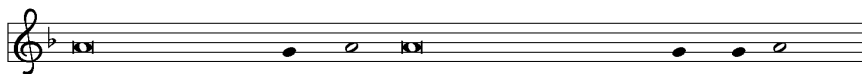
Lord, have mer - cy.



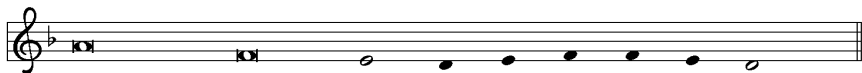
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



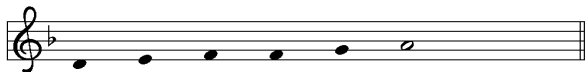
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



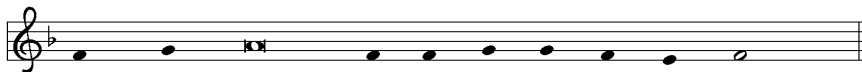
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



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



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O 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. 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.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,  
C and also with you.

P Let us pray.  
Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 43:16-21

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

R A Reading from Isaiah.

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: 126

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. Men, the regular print; women, the bold print.)*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was your mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

<sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## SECOND LESSON: Philippians 3:4b-14

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

R        A reading Philippians.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

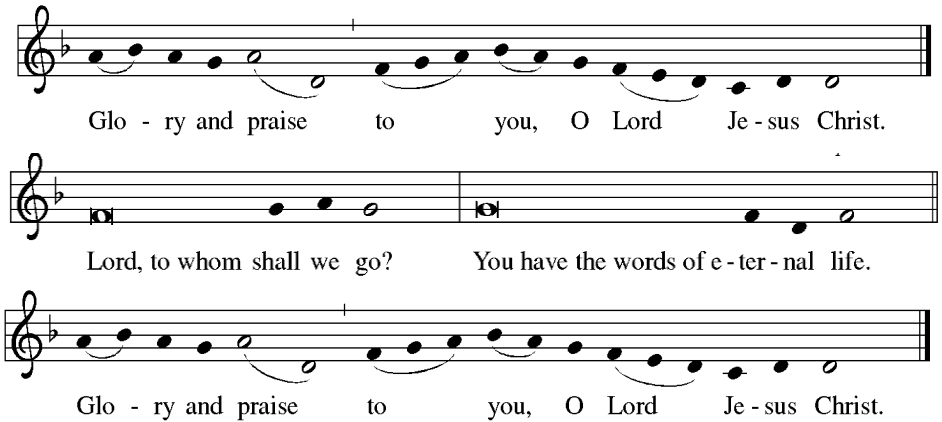
<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R The word of the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

### \*GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

<sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume

not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?”  
<sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

## Holy Woman, Graceful Giver: Mark 14



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,  
2 Like the ves - sel, we are bro - ken; like the  
3 In these jars is hid - den trea - sure, cost - ly  
4 Ho - ly wom - an, cost - ly trea - sure, with the



ser - vant, and be - liev - er, wom - an with the oint - ment  
oint - ment, we are to - ken of God's lov - ing un - to  
fra - grance, Christ - ly plea - sure, like the Christ, first from the  
jar of al - a - bas - ter, shows the hid - den gift we



jar, rose up near the time ap - point - ed, broke the  
death; like the wom - an, we are serv - ing; like the  
dead, bro - ken for cre - a - tion's whole - ness, poured out  
are; there - fore let us as Christ's ser - vants hold our



seal, Christ's head a - noint - ed for the com - ing fa - tal  
scold - ers, ill - de - serv - ing such a rich, for - giv - ing  
for its com - ing full - ness, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and  
sis - ter in re - mem - brance, wom - an with the oint - ment



hour, for the com - ing fa - tal hour.  
faith, such a rich, for - giv - ing faith.  
Head, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and Head.  
jar, wom - an with the oint - ment jar.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ALABASTER JAR, Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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## \*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

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church,  
the world, and all those in need.

C Amen.

P God in your mercy

C receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together  
in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to  
life.

C Amen.

**\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Surely, He Has Borne Our Grievs*

J. Carter

**\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Please sing **Verse 6** only.

**Just As I Am, without One Plea**

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

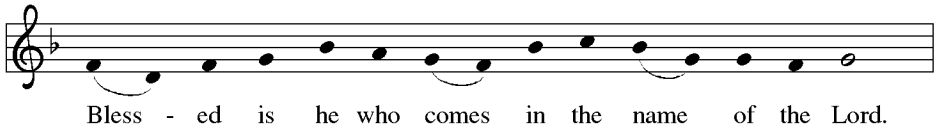
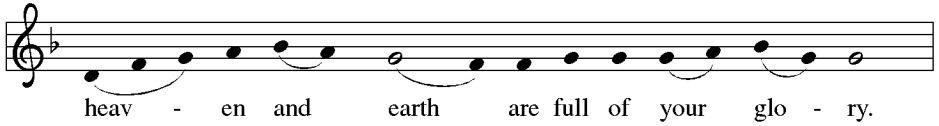
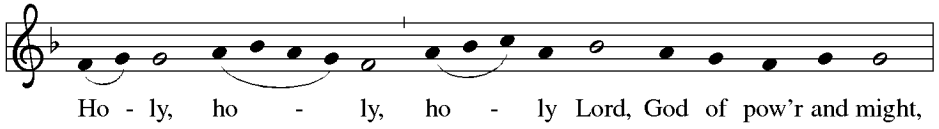
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

P 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

## \*SANCTUS



## \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** 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.

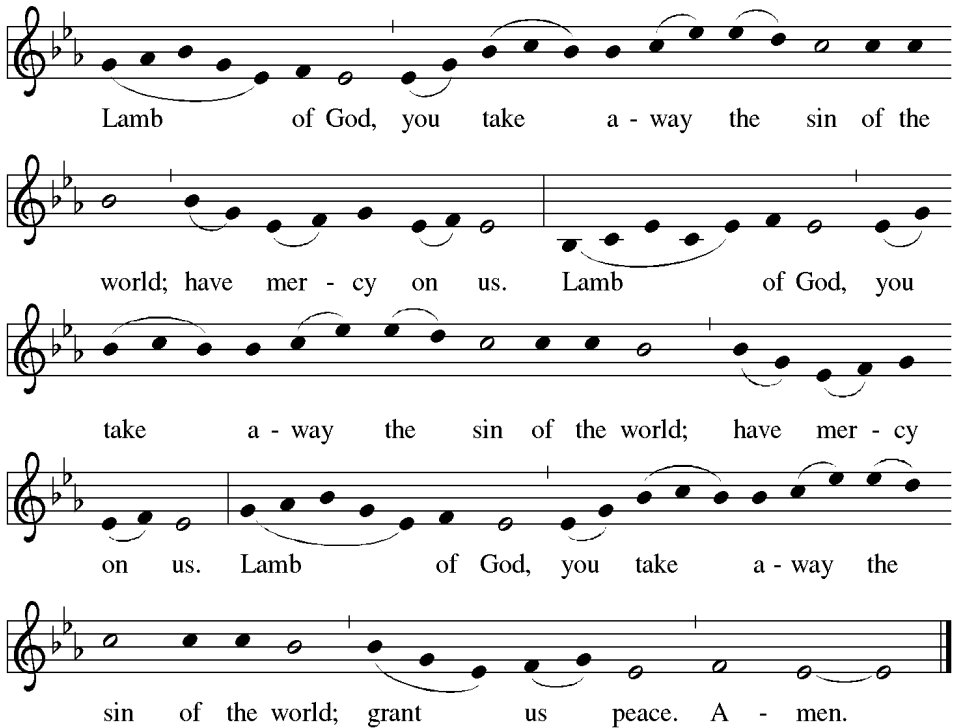


## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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.

P     All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## \*COMMUNION



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. A - men.

*Congregation may be seated. Please follow the directions of the ushers for the distribution of Communion.*

*All baptized, communing Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament.*

*We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine.*

*Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.*

P      The body of Christ given for you.

C      **Amen.**

A      The blood of Christ shed for you.

C      **Amen.**

## -COMMUNION-

*Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.*

### Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

# Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

- \*P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C** Amen.

**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

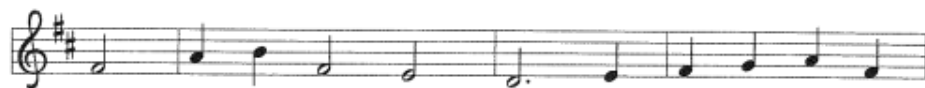
- A** Let us pray.  
**A** Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

- P** God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

# My Song Is Love Unknown



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
stow; the world that was his own would not its  
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.

Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962

Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust

LOVE UNKNOWN

6 6 6 4 4 8

Alternate tune: RHOSYMEDRE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
C Thanks be to God!

### \*POSTLUDE

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

F. Maker/arr. J. Linker



Altar Flowers

In memory of Angela Fasick by Jessie Johnston.

### MAY ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Sponsors are needed for **May 4 and May 18**. Please use the form located in the bulletin or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.

### TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Gene Shaner, Terry Shaner
Assisting Minister:	Sean Gimbel
Lay Reader:	Karen Heath
Acolyte:	Katie Stull
Altar Guild:	Joan Murphy, Andrea Sassaman
Council Money Duty:	Ben Yost, Karen Fisher

**-THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK-**

**Sunday, April 6**

**8:30 am**

**9:45 am**

**9:45 am**

**11:00 am**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Blended Worship Svc.-Communion**

**Sunday Church School**

**Children's Choir**

**Worship Svc.-Communion**

**Monday, April 7**

**2:45 pm**

**7:00 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**German Group**

**Tuesday, April 8**

**6:30 pm**

**WinGS**

**Wednesday, April 9**

**11:00 am**

**1:00 pm**

**4:30 pm**

**5:30 pm**

**6:45 pm**

**Before Lent Worship**

**After Lent Worship**

**Bible Study**

**Finance Committee**

**Deliver meals to homebound**

**Bread and Broth**

**Lenten Worship Svc.**

**Bell Choir**

**Adult Choir**

**Thursday, April 10**

**9:00 am**

**7:00 pm**

**Property Committee**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Friday, April 11**

**3:45 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**Saturday, April 12**

**Sunday, April 13**

**8:30 am**

**9:45 am**

**9:45 am**

**11:00 am**

**PALM SUNDAY**

**Blended Worship Svc.-Communion**

**Sunday Church School**

**Children's Choir**

**Worship Svc.-Communion**

**LESSONS:**

**PROCESSION WITH PALMS**

**FIRST READING**

**PSALM**

**SECOND READING**

**GOSPEL**

**APRIL 13, 2025**

**Luke 19:28-40**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Psalms 31:9-16**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**Luke 22:1—23:56**



## -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS:

April 9

Worship & Music (including choirs)

### MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for April, May, and June:

April 27

Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups

May 25

Feminine Hygiene Products

June 8

Ketchup and Mustard

### SUMMER CAMP

Brochures for Summer Camp at either Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald are available at the church office, or you can contact our camp person, Connie Kuntz, at 717-503-5244. You can also register or find additional information online at [www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org). Our congregation will provide half the basic camp fee and scholarship money is available if needed. Both camps will again hold Open House on **April 6 from 2:00-4:30 PM**. Remember to get the camp person discount and if you register with your full payment **before April 5**, you are eligible for the full payment discount. The congregation will be billed later for half the basic fee. Remember there are camps available for all ages with Family Camps and Elder Camp. The Bible study theme this year is God's Word Comes Near. The theme verse is:

*The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.*  
Romans 10:8

### GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK

The community will gather on **April 18** in various locations at **11:00 am** to begin walking and cover our community in prayer. Pastor Marleen will be leading a prayer group from St. Mark that day. All the groups will end at Mechanicsburg First Church of God near the center of town at **NOON** and conclude with a brief time of worship together.

## **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

On Sunday, **April 27**, during worship, we will have our regular elements of worship with fun and creative moments and experiences mixed in. We will use God's gifts of laughter and joy to enjoy the new life that Christ gave us through the Easter miracle as we gather in worship, celebration, and praise! Let's laugh at the devil through our humor! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## **NEW DATE AND TIME - EASTER EGG HUNT**

All kids and their families are welcome to join us on **Saturday, April 26, at 10:00 am** for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to hunt, and older youth help hide the eggs. Refreshments will be provided.

## **YARD SALE IS BACK!**

**Sell your stuff or come to shop!** Join us on Saturday, **May 24** from 9:00 am--? for a yard sale on our back lawn. Anyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 am. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 am.

## **BOOK CLUB -NEW!**

Join us on Thursday, **May 15**, at **1:00 pm** in the parlor to discuss *The Story of Arthur Truelove* by Elizabeth Berg.

Suggested book is a novel by Elizabeth Berg, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*.

This is a heartwarming novel about two unlikely people who find a connection. Arthur is a kind caring man who visits the cemetery daily to have an imaginary conversation with his late wife. There he meets Maddy, a troubled teen hiding from school. Together they find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of life.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. We encourage you to share and invite a friend.

The book is available through the library or Thrift books.

## **ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED**

Altar flower sponsors are needed for **all Sundays in May**. Please use the form located in the bulletin or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.



**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

invites you to  
join us for our annual

# EASTER EGG HUNT

April | 26 | 2025

10:00 a.m.

**Refreshments will be Provided**

117 West Keller Street  
Mechanisburg, PA 17055

**HOLY WEEK**  
  
**SCHEDULE**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

Begin Holy Week by gathering to process with palms and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We gather on **Sunday, April 13, at 8:30 am for our traditional service and at 11:00 am for our simpler worship.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, AT NOON**

There will be a noon service of Holy Communion at St. Mark and the stripping of the altar.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE MEAL AT ST. STEPHEN-6:00 PM**

Our congregation has been invited to St. Stephen Lutheran Church on **Thursday, April 17, for an AGAPE Meal.** The AGAPE Meal is a candlelight simple meal with a service of healing and common communion interwoven ending in a quiet stripping of the altar. **Please sign-up on the sheets provided at entrances to St. Mark if you plan on attending.** St. Stephen is located at 30 W. Main St., New Kingstown, Pa.

**GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK AND SERVICE - APRIL 18**

The community will gather in various locations on April 18 at 11:00 am to begin walking and covering our community in prayer. Pastor Marleen will be leading a prayer group from St. Mark that day. All of the groups will end in the center of town at **12:00 Noon** and conclude with a brief time of worship together. Our community will gather for a traditional Good Friday worship service to remember the death of Christ and hear the passion narrative according to John's gospel at 7:00 pm. You don't want to miss nailing your name to the cross at the conclusion of the service.

**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—SUNRISE SERVICE, POTLUCK BREAKFAST, AND EASTER SERVICE, APRIL 20**

We gather to celebrate the first Sunday of Easter. We will gather at **6:30 am for the Sunrise service, 7:15 Easter Potluck breakfast, at 8:30 am for our traditional worship, and 11:00 am for our simpler worship.**

-WORD SEARCH-

## God So Loved The World

V T E T S D N U U G E G N O S 6 P  
J U O S T E U V J E O M G I D L U  
Y T H N O V B A P D V S I O W J P  
P H I G J O U S D G E B N D O 3 J  
E E F 6 D L T F P F O I H P F 1 3  
R H R J E R H I E N B U I F F T F  
I W V 1 B J A S F N M 6 M H O V H  
S O Y A I R V E O U O S D I I R J  
H R R D B U E S R S E S G A V E O  
E L R I F 6 T 6 Y T H L I P L U H  
Y D Y I S J W B U N B A V H W L N  
T N E B R E V E O H W N L 1 P I 3  
J H V T J J 3 U H A 1 R S L 1 F 1  
B T A L O E P A Y H H E D G N E 6  
G 1 R T D L H W N M 6 T N W H O M  
S V L T F B E L I E V E S 3 I G T  
P A T N A G H S 3 A N D O N L Y Y

John 3:16	shall not	but have	believes	and only
eternal	whoever	his one	perish	in him
world	loved	life	that	gave
Son	the	God	For	he
so				



April 9	Bread & Broth Continues
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday, Noon, St. Mark
April 17	Maundy Thursday AGAPE Feast at St. Stephen, 30 W. Main St., New Kingston, 17072 - 6:00 PM
April 18	Good Friday Community Prayer Walk
April 18	Good Friday Service
April 20	Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM
April 20	Potluck Easter Breakfast - 7:15 AM
April 20	Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Day
April 26	Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshments
April 27	Holy Humor Sunday
May 15	Book Club read of <i>Arthur Truluv</i>
May 24	Community Yard Sale
August 4-7	St. Mark Day Camp
September 8	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.
October 14	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 19	CROP Walk at Memorial Park
November 27	Thanksgiving Dinner

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line.*** Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office



Please check any that apply!

- Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### INSTEAD, YOU COULD HAVE . . .

Not another book of the Bible talks about love the way John talks about love. Even if a person doesn't know another thing about this gospel, never went to vacation Bible school, sang a hymn, sat in a pew, or stared at a stained-glass window, chances are good they will perk up at familiar echoes of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world."

Love is leaking out of this gospel book like water from a hose with no gasket, and who knows where it all goes? "I love you, you should love me," Jesus says. And love one another too—colleagues and culprits, defamers and defenders, the near and the far, bullies, bandits, and bores. "Love." It is Jesus' nonnegotiable command. So you'd expect that the hangers-on, the stick-arounds, the learners and leaders and even the laggards-behind whose names and faces and brief bios show up in John's chapters would be specialists in the art of loving.

Some of those gospel characters were together one night in Bethany, a little village just over the hills from Jerusalem. A dinner (it was holiday time) was being hosted in the home of Jesus' friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. But the festive gathering was menaced. They were on edge in the intimacy of the room. Uneasiness stirred in the streets, rebels' causes brewed in shadows and braved daylight. Rumors and plots swirled as they do in troubled times—times that ignore commands, are deaf to pleas, and mislay impulses to love.

When love does not know what to do or how to act; when it struggles with itself and feels imperfect or too thin, unfinished and inadequate; when the campaigns and monuments and funds and meals and letters seem not enough . . . look at Mary. She leads the way by kneeling at the feet of love itself. There we find the path toward love.