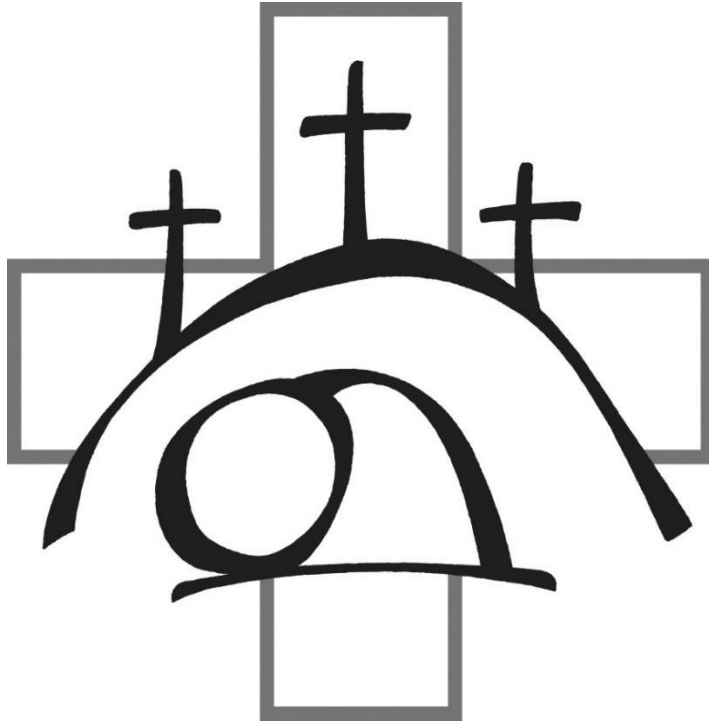


CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for April 28, 2024



**GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELST[†]NorCal Ministry ... Other Area Locations
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

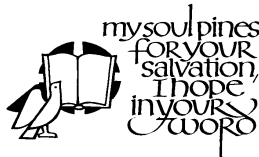
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

We do have **LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service; they can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Blue (2021) /
'Christian Worship Supplement' (blue soft cover)*

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksch; Follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: What is something we can take for granted though we may daily witness this taking place? The growth and decay of life, in particular the trees and plants we drive by or walk by or see outside our window. Branches attached to the trunk, sprout; branches cut or broken off, decay. How can we tell if people are connected to the life Source, Jesus? Are they 'sprouting' or 'decaying'? Today we explore this subject matter through the eyes of our Savior, thanks to His Holy Word.

PRELUDE

Jesus Loves Me

Arr. by Zach Unke

School Choirs at 10:45

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

(Ps 100)

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

M: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

C: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

M: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

C: give thanks to him and praise his name.

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

M: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

C: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

*If you remain in me
and I in you
you will bear much fruit*

HYMN

Musical Introduction

See, What a Morning

Christian Worship Blue # 451



1 See, what a morn - ing, glo - rious-ly bright, with the dawn - ing of
2 See Mar - y weep - ing, "Where is he laid?" as in sor - row she
3 One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, thro' the Spir - it who



hope in Je - ru - sa - lem; fold - ed the grave - clothes,
turns from the emp - ty tomb. Hears a voice speak - ing,
clothes faith with cer - tain - ty. Hon - or and bless - ing,



tomb filled with light, as the an - gels an - nounce, "Christ is
call - ing her name; it's the Mas - ter, the Lord raised to
glo - ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au -



ris - en!" See God's sal - va - tion plan, wrought in
life a - gain! The voice that spans the years, speak - ing
thor - i - ty! And we are raised with him; death is



love, borne in pain, paid in sac - ri - fice, ful - filled in
life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing peace to us, will sound till
dead, love has won, Christ has con - quered. And we shall



Christ, the Man, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
he ap - pears, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
reign with him, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. Jesus has said, as recorded in Matthew 22:

C: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

M: This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

C: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

M: But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 6

Christian Worship Blue # 523



1 How deep the Fa - ther’s love for us, how vast be - yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow’r, no



mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?



The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with



Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
 brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
 all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

M: Let us pray. O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Help us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven;

C: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-37

Stay connected to Jesus – such leads to a looking out for one another.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

In Unity and Peace

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 7

Christian Worship Blue # 732



How good it is and how pleas-ant to live in u-ni-ty and peace.



How good it is and how pleas-ant to live to-geth-er in one Lord.

(Last time only)



to live to - geth - er in one Lord.



1 In the name of our Lord— Je - sus Christ, a -
2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call, be
3 Share the love that has joined_ us as one, u -



gree in ev - 'ry-thing you say.____ May there__ be no di-
hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa-tient. Bear with each oth - er in
nite in spir - it and i - deals.____ Nev - er be ri - vals, do



vi - sions a - mong you, but be u - nit - ed in one mind.
ways that are lov - ing, pre - serve the u - ni - ty of faith.
not be con - ceit - ed, but look to oth - ers in their need.



For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:18-24

Christian love is more than words. Stay connected to Jesus.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY *(Musical introduction)*

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8

Jesus is the Source of Life, connected to Him we are productive people.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 9

Christian Worship Blue # 566

**Father, God of grace, you knew us, chose us, named us as your own,
through eternal ages planning to redeem us in your Son.
Praise the Father, God who loved us ere creation was begun!**

**We, your creatures, sinned against you, and our guilt was crimson red.
Son of God, you came incarnate, crushed the crafty serpent’s head,
died our death, now live triumphant: praise the firstborn from the dead!**

**Counselor, you bring as promised from the Father and the Son
righteousness fulfilled, accomplished, free forgiveness, heaven won.**

Praise the Spirit! He assures us our salvation's work is done!

Lord, your changeless Word has fed us, spanning time, transcending space.

Water, bread, and wine sustained us when the darkness hid your face.

Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd, by your saving means of grace!

Forward lead us; Christ, we follow, drawn by Word and promise true:

“To all nations preach the gospel; I am evermore with you.”

Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus, quickly come; make all things new!

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on John 15:1-8

“Stay Connected To Jesus”



A CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us each day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

And we also pray ...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 11

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

Christian Worship Blue # 716



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and fol - low you, for -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for a - ges sealed, whose
3 O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd nev - er trod to
4 O Christ, th'_a - pos - tles' Lord, the mar - tyrs' strength and song, the



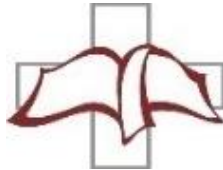
sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways for ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, the ways of God re - vealed:
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim the near - er reign of God:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King to whom the saints be - long:



grant us to hear your call to risk se - cur - i - ty and,
in - struct us now, we pray, by your em - pow'r - ing Word. True
send us on ways where faith tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, where
though gen - er - a - tions pass, our trib - ute still we bring, our



bound in heart and will to you, find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.
love in - forms and hope sus - tains both life and min - is - try.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, our lives an of - fer - ing.



M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song on page 12

Salvation unto Us Has Come

Christian Worship Blue # 558



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un -
10 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise to Fa - ther, Son, and



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
ceas - ing; and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and
Spir - it, the God who saved us by his grace; all glo - ry



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works
to his mer - it! O tri - une God in heav'n a - bove, you



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
serve our neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.
have re - vealed your sav - ing love; your bless - ed name be hal - lowed!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Arr. by John Behnke



TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

1st: Which part of this section jumped out at you? What was at the heart of their gathering together? How can we imitate such today? Read Colossians 3:12-17.

2nd: Christians are not perfect, and yet what is expected from us in contrast to those not connected to Jesus? When we do fall, what then? Read 1 Timothy 6:3-16.

3rd: Why is the visual imagery used here helpful in understanding the relationship between Jesus and us? What 'fruit' does Jesus expect to see from us? What other truth does Jesus make clear in these verses? Read James 2:8-26.

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To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| Today | 8:00 & 10:45 | Worship Service |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Bible Study |
| Monday | 6:30 p.m. | Worship Service (Office Building Chapel) |
| Tuesday | 1:00 p.m. | GriefShare #7 |
| Wednesday | 8:20 p.m. | School Chapel Service |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Adult Choir |
| Thursday | 9:30 a.m. | JOL Women's Bible Study |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Digging Deeper Class |
| Next Sunday | 8:00 & 10:45 | Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | | <i>Confirmation at the 10:45 Service</i> |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Bible Study |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Jesus Cares Worship |

| <i>Birthdays</i> | | <i>Anniversaries</i> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Calvin Noecker | <i>Apr 28</i> | |
| Jacob Rausch | | |
| David Skultety | <i>Apr 29</i> | |
| Madeline Rowe | <i>Apr 30</i> | |
| Matthew Lervold | <i>May 3</i> | |
| | <i>May 4</i> | Joshua & Cierra Castagnola |





Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Pastor: Jonathan Kolander

Principal: Darren Vogt

