

CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

**Examination & Confirmation Sunday
May 5, 2024 ... 10:45 AM**



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

We are St. Mark's Church & School

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

6th Sunday of Easter – Examination & Confirmation

May 5, 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:

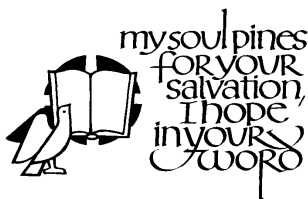
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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: If you have gone through Confirmation, you no longer need to spend time in the Word of God. While that is not accurate, how many people who have gone through the process of Confirmation believe and or act like that is the case? Confirmation as we celebrate it in our church is just another stepping stone in what is to be our lifelong relationship with Jesus. Confirmation is an indication that we have been maturing in our faith and in Bible knowledge; and, it is a time when we publicly promise to stay connected to the Word of God through the church (3rd Commandment and Hebrews 10:23-25). We know that challenges to the faith remain after Confirmation, yet with what we have learned, and with what we continue to learn through the Bible, we can endure through them and hold on to God's gift of eternal life. If you have been confirmed, may you continue to take seriously all that goes with it; and if you have not been doing that but are here today, may God renew your heart to do so. Keep today's Confirmands in your prayers.

PRELUDE

This Is My Will

Cheryl Nolte

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: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

(Ps 95)

C: let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

M: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

C: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

M: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

C: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

C: Let us worship Him.



HYMN

Musical Introduction ... See page 4 for the Song

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Christian Worship Blue # 729

**Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.**

**Bind us all as one together in your Church's sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.**

**As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.**

**Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.**

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. *(1 John 4)*

C: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 15:9-17

Connected to Jesus, love is a fruit of faith to be seen in us and by us.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Choir

This Is My Commandment

Larry Shackley © 2010 Lorenz Publishing House

*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
You are My friends, if you do whatever I command you.*

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN

His Mercy Is More

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 6 (final Refrain once)

Christian Worship Blue # 579



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

THE EXAMINATION –

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS BASED ON THE CATECHISM

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd

Christian Worship Blue # 757

**Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, children all are dear to you;
 may your loving arms enfold them in your care their whole life through.**

By your tending and protecting keep them safe in all they do.

**Tender Shepherd, never leave them, never let them go astray;
 by your warning love directed, may they walk the narrow way.
 Thus direct them, thus defend them lest they fall an easy prey.**

**By your holy Word instruct them, fill their minds with heav'nly light;
 by your pow'rful grace convince them always to approve what's right.
 Let them feel your yoke is easy, let them find your burden light.**

**Taught to love the holy praises which on earth your children sing,
 with their lips and hearts, sincerely, glad thank-off'rings may they bring,
 then with all the saints in glory join to praise their Lord and King.**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Lilleah Castagnola

Everet Miller

Grace Naves

Kyler Ross

Tyler Vosberg

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

The Ushers will direct Communicants by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Communion Assistant. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be placed on the backside of the Rail. If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west (Pulpit) side, right to left. When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher or the Pastor know of this.

As a reminder: Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members and those who spoke with the Pastor ahead of time partake of the Sacrament. In the future, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor following the Service / during the week.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Christian Worship Blue # 557

**Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, with exultation springing,
and, with united heart and voice and holy rapture singing,
proclaim the wonders God has done, how his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; in sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; life had become a living hell,
so firmly sin possessed me.**

**My own good works availed me naught, no merit they attaining;
my will against God's judgment fought, no hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair left only death to be my share
and hell to be my sentence.**

**But God beheld my wretched state before the world's foundation,
and, mindful of his mercies great, he planned for my salvation.
A father's heart he turned to me, sought my redemption fervently;
he gave his dearest treasure.**

**He spoke to his beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of my crown, and bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; slay bitter death for them that they
may live with you forever."**

**The Son obeyed his Father's will, was born of virgin mother,
and, God's good pleasure to fulfill, he came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a servant's form like mine he bore
to lead the devil captive.**

**To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, and evermore you shall be mine;
the foe shall not divide us.**

**"What I on earth have lived and taught be all your life and teaching;
so shall my kingdom's work be wrought and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws should e'er destroy the gospel's cause;
this final word I leave you."**

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.**

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.

M: May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself. May the power of the Lord Jesus make us strong to do His will. May the peace of the Lord Jesus fill our lives.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ...

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

Christian Worship Blue # 644

**Almighty God, your Word is cast like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav'n descend and righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the foe of Christ and man this holy seed remove,
but give it root in ev'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.**

**Whene'er the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow
that all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow'r may know.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

Voices Raised to You

Charles W. Ore

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.



**GO OUT
TO THE WHOLE
WORLD,
PROCLAIM
THE GOOD NEWS
TO ALL
CREATION**

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

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

How does obedience to God's command show love for Him? What is the implication of your answer to that question? What is not to be considered 'love' in the eyes of God, and really toward a fellow human being? Read 1 John 2:15-17.

HIGHLIGHTS --- THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today	8:00 & 10:45 9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	LWMS Mission Box Offering Worship Service with Holy Communion Bible Study Jesus Cares Worship
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service (Office Building Chapel)
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	GriefShare (Luther Room) Board of Child Discipleship Meeting
Wednesday	8:20 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	School Chapel Service Adult Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 p.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study (Library)
Friday	6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Women's Book Club (Library) River City Chorale
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	River City Chorale
Sunday	8:00 & 10:45 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Happy Mother's Day) Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Ann Swan	<i>May 5</i>	
Kathy Edwards	<i>May 6</i>	
Taylor Klunker	<i>May 7</i>	
Marilyn Zalunardo	<i>May 8</i>	
Carol Locke	<i>May 11</i>	



Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: `stmarks7869`

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.