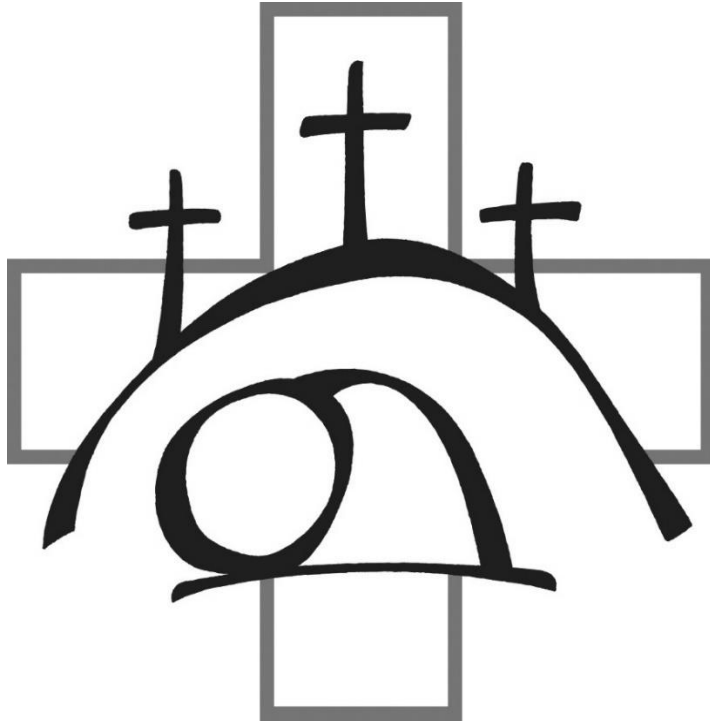


CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for May 5, 2024



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

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELS†NorCal Ministry ... Other 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

6th Sunday of Easter

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:

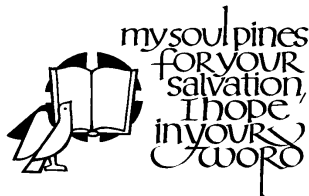
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

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: What is a word which may be overused by humans, yet this word still produces strong emotions as well as leads to action? The word is 'love.' Love is what Jesus has shown to the people of this world; it is what He expects to see in action from the people of this world. This love is not to be superficial or manipulative, it is to be genuine and prominent in one's life. How does your practice of love measure up to the expectation Jesus puts before us?

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

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 4

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.

(from CWS # 738)

(musical intro, all) In hopelessness and near despair, I cry to you, my Savior!

My guilt is more than I can bear. I have not earned your favor.

You know me as I really am: How much is truth, how much is sham;

Why should you heed my pleading?

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.

(accepella, women)

I see my heart's condition now, My heart's diverse affections.

Why do I love the things you loathe; I'm torn in two directions:

Now prodigal, now Pharisee. O God, be merciful to me;

Who else but you can help me?

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.

(accepella, men)

I tremble as I feel your hand, Expecting retribution,

Yet hear no curse or reprimand, But grace and absolution:

With you there is forgiveness, Lord, You speak the sweet, consoling Word,

And I am sure you love me!

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.

*(no intro, all) Forgiven, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to render
 A gift to glorify your name, Love to reflect your splendor:
 This world must know what I have learned, That you bestow what none has earned:
 The joy of full forgiveness!*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

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).

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-42

Peter shows the power and love of God through this miracle.

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" ³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

Christian Worship Blue # 723

**When in the hour of utmost need we know not where to look for aid,
 when days and nights of anxious thought no help or counsel yet have brought,**

**Then is our comfort this alone that we may meet before your throne;
to you, O faithful God, we cry for rescue in our misery.**

**For you have promised, Lord, to heed your children's cries in time of need
through him whose name alone is great, our Savior and our advocate.**

**And so we come, O God, today and all our woes before you lay;
be with us in our anguish still, free us at last from ev'ry ill,**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-11, 19-21

God is love and has called us to love, such is not optional.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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.*

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

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. 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 OF THE DAY

Musical Introduction

This Is My Will

Christian Worship Blue # 728

**This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love as I have shown that I love you.**

**No greater love can be than this: To choose to die to save one's friends.
You are my friends if you obey what I command that you should do.**

**I call you now no longer slaves; no slave knows all his master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear my Father say you hear from me.**

**You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me should bear much fruit that will abide.**

**All that you ask my Father dear for my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command, that love should dwell in each, in all.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on John 15:9-17

“Remain In God's Love”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – FROM THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy on behalf of your people.

C: We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who has ascended into heaven and sits at your right hand.

M: We rejoice in the knowledge that he is our advocate before your throne and that he intercedes for us in all our needs.

C: Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truths.

M: Give to all who serve your holy Church a full measure of your grace that Christ may be confessed, his cross uplifted, and his gospel declared as the only way to eternal life. Bless all parents that they may be wholesome examples to their children.

C: May they teach their children to love you, to practice virtue, to desire to pursue instruction in your Word, and to serve your Church and all people.

M: Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted. In the quiet hour of the night, when they are weighed down with pain, loneliness, and anxiety, bring them strength and hope by assuring them that your love endures, your power overcomes, and your presence remains constant.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: As we leave this hour of worship, we give all glory to Jesus.

C: To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

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: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

Christian Worship Blue # 726

**Love in Christ is strong and living, binding faithful hearts in one;
love in Christ is true and giving, may his will in us be done.**

**Love is patient and forbearing, clothed in Christ’s humility,
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever, fainting not when ills attend;
love, forgiving and forgiven, shall endure until life’s end.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

Voices Raised to You

Charles W. Ore

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 Readings ...

1st: What reputation did Tabitha have? Why would Peter send the people out of the room? What did this miracle set the stage for? Read Acts 1:7-8.

2nd: What is love? Where does it come from? How is it to be evident in your life, and why is this? Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

3rd: 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

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

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