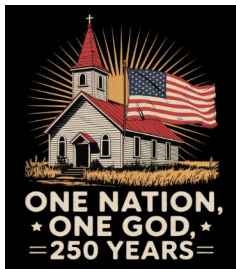


ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
JULY 5, 2026  
6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY COMMUNION



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

10:00 am - Outdoor Service (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—July, August)

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com)

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

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: [denisehirn@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com)

[www.stmarkmburg.com](http://www.stmarkmburg.com)

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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg*



**ONE NATION,  
★ ONE GOD, ★  
= 250 YEARS =**

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
JULY 5, 2026  
6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY COMMUNION



**GUESTS:**

*We would like to get to know you! Please complete a “Welcome to St. Mark Church” card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!*

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415**

**Monday, July 6, 2026**

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church and burned at the stake.

**Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540**

**Saturday, July 11, 2026**

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

## PRELUDE MUSIC

### GATHERING

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
C Amen.

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

#### \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C Amen.

P Let us bring every burden to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Trusting in God's mercy, 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 God of all mercy,

C we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

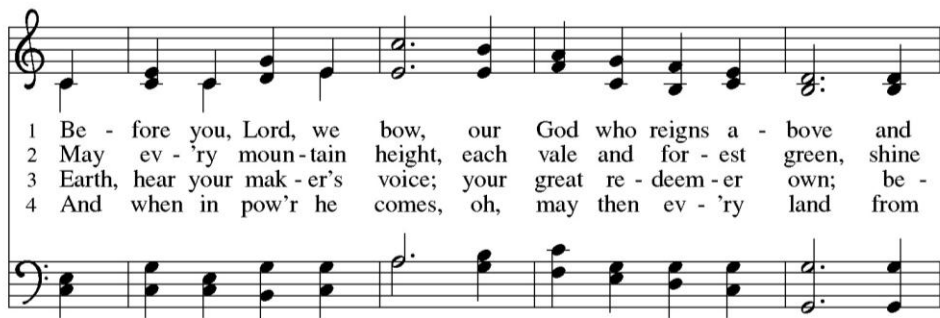
P All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of ✠ Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

C Amen.

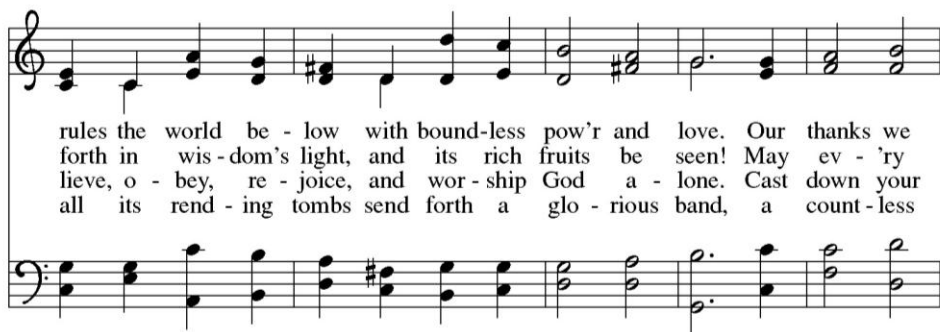
Asterisk (\*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

# \*GATHERING HYMN

## Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and  
2 May ev - ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine  
3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -  
4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we  
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry  
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your  
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count-less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!  
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.  
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.  
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

## \*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

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

# Listen! You Nations

*Refrain*



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*



3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

**FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

R A reading from Zechariah.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

*(Please read the Psalm in unison.)*

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**<sup>9</sup> LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

**<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.**

**<sup>11</sup> They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

**<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

**<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

**<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

**R** A reading from Romans.

**<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.**

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.  
“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## **\*APOSTLES CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.\*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

---

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray  
for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A God of grace,  
C hear our prayer.

**NOTE: Please read the BOLDED FIRST NAMES ONLY out loud down Each column when prompted by the Assisting Minister.**

**P** Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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**

**\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

### **\*PREFACE**

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 God thanks and praise.**

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

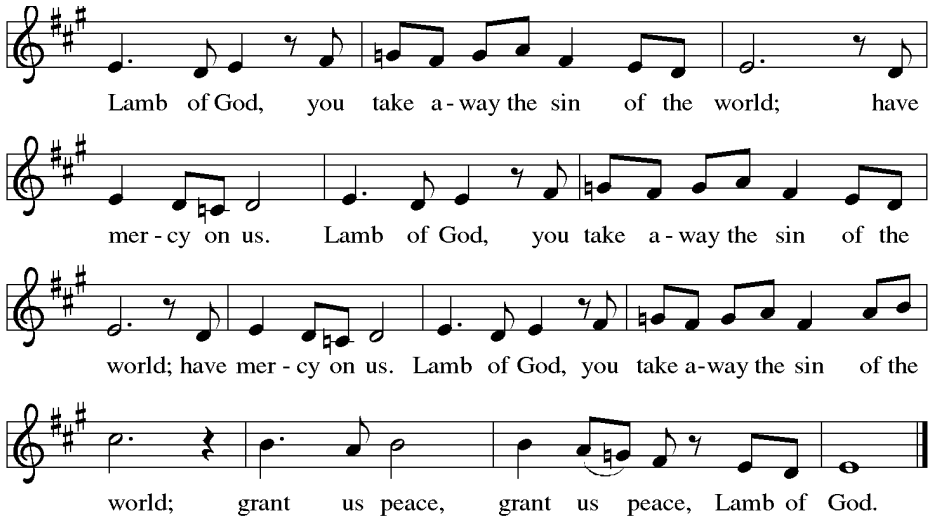
C Amen.

### \*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.

## \*COMMUNION

P Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION

*All baptized, communion 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.

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

(Continued next page)

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

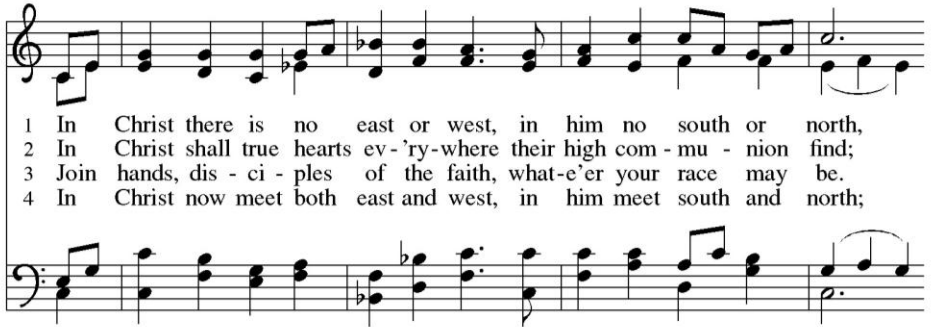
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3  
 Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957  
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 Outside USA: Music © Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden.

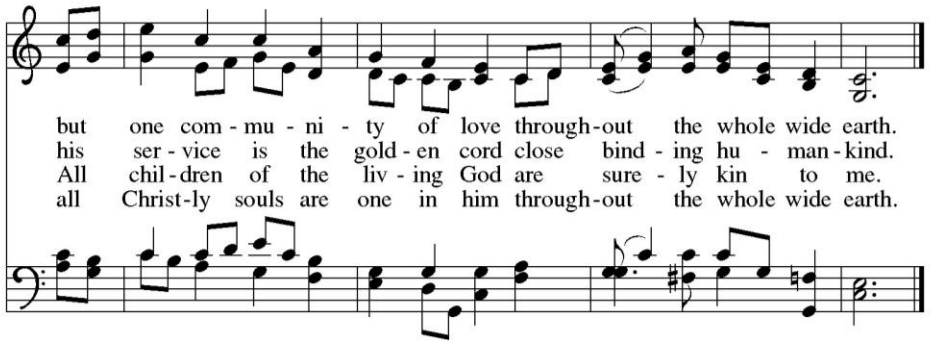
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## -COMMUNION-

### In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;  
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.  
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin - to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

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

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

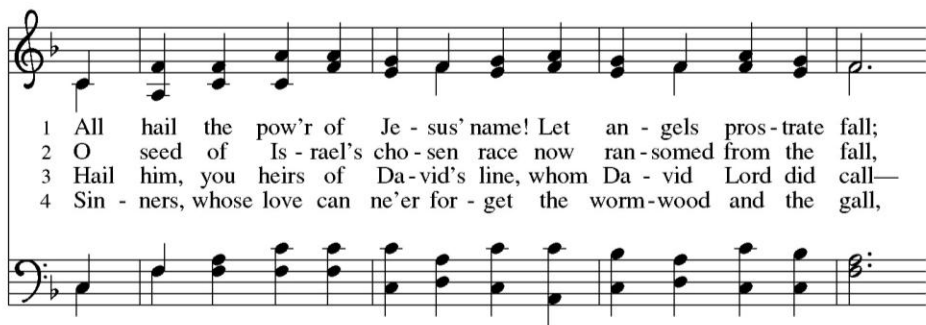
- A** Let us pray.  
**A** We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

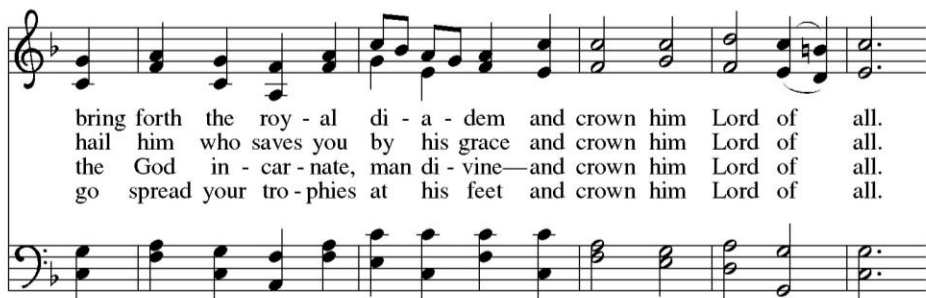
- P** The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ✠ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.  
**C** Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

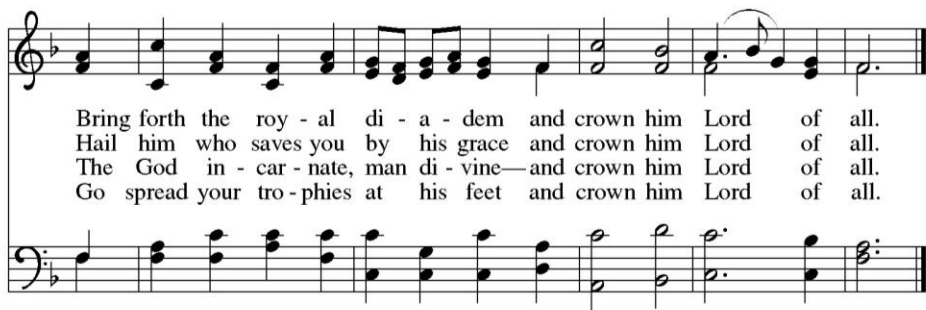
### All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.  
C Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE



In memory of my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bird and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fissel, by Susan Fissel

In honor of my sister, Jennifer Kruse, by Susan Fissel

### ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

Altar flower sponsors are needed through November. Please use the form located in bulletins and the newsletter. Check with Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 for available dates.

### TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Alma Gimbel
Lay Reader:	Matt Yost
Acolyte:	Caroline Stull
Ushers:	Gene Shaner, Terry Shaner
Altar Guild:	Terry Shaner, Sara Jane Miller, Barb Lehman
Money Duty:	Kevin Amos, Marlin Brown
Zoom Operator	Lori Clelan

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, July 5**  
8:30 am  
9:45 am  
10:00 am

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Worship Service—Communion  
Summer Fellowship  
Outdoor Worship Service

**Monday, July 6**  
2:45 pm  
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons  
German Club

**Tuesday, July 7**

**Wednesday, July 8**  
1:00 pm

Finance Meeting

**Thursday, July 9**  
9:00 am  
7:00 pm

Property Committee  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Friday, July 10**  
2:45 pm

PASTOR VACATION  
Violin Lessons

**Saturday, July 11**

PASTOR VACATION

**Sunday, July 12**  
8:30 am  
9:45 am  
12:00 pm

PASTOR VACATION  
7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
Worship Service—Communion  
Summer Fellowship  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**LESSONS:**  
**FIRST READING**  
**PSALM**  
**SECOND READING**  
**GOSPEL**

**JULY 12, 2026**  
Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 65:1-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### HEARTFELT THANKS

We sincerely thank Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir, who is filling in for Brad Hull, Director of Music, while he is on vacation July 5 and July 12.

### PASTOR VACATION

#### PHONE NUMBER FOR PASTORAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES:

Pastor Marleen and family are on vacation July 10-16. Pastor Mike Tamorria is supplying for Pastor Marleen on Sunday, July 12. Pastor Mike Faust (Newville Parish) is on call for pastoral care and emergencies. He can be reached at 717-965-3854. If Pastor Faust is unavailable, please contact Pastor Gwenn Trout at 717-602-9913.

### SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME

Treats and Talk—9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor (Through August)  
(Sunday School for All Ages Resumes in the Fall)

### MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee designates one Sunday a month to collect items for New Hope Ministries. Here are the items for June, July, and August:

July 19

August 16

September 20

Brownie and Cake Mixes and Icing

Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli

Puddings and Applesauce

### BOOK CLUB

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on Thursday, July 23, at 1:00 pm in the parlor. The suggested book is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. A gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. We look forward to conversation and fellowship.

### NEW HOPE SUNSHINE BAGS

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) are collecting **TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS** for New Hope Ministries Sunshine Bags. Please fill a gallon size Ziploc bag with **travel size items**. These bags are provided to individuals when they go to New Hope to take a shower. A container has been placed at the back entrance of the church. Please contact Tina Freidhof with any questions. THANK YOU!

**Items for women:** shampoo, conditioner, razor, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste.

**Items for men:** shampoo, razor, shaving cream, soap, comb, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste.

### **TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

The congregation of Trindle Spring Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to our community to join us for Vacation Bible School 2026! Our theme this year is "Tropical Trek" and we will be learning about how Jesus seeks us out no matter where we go. We will do this through bible stories, songs, crafts, games, and even service projects. TSLC VBS will take place from Sunday, **July 26-Thursday, July 30, 2026**. A kid-friendly dinner is served for the whole family at 5:00pm, followed by VBS from 5:45-8:00pm. To register, go to the TSLC website at [www.trindlespringlutheran.org](http://www.trindlespringlutheran.org). We hope you will join us!

### **SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR KIDS**

Mark your calendars! Day Camp at St. Mark will return this summer for kids from K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Those who are older are encouraged to come and help during camp this summer. On **August 3 through August 7 from 8:30 am–3:30 pm**. This year we use the ELCA's National Youth Gathering's theme: *Imagine More, Courage, Joy, Love, Welcome, and Grace*. We will learn how the Kingdom of God is a place of **more**. This **FREE** camp is a great way for our youth and youth in our community to grow in their faith! If you know young people who would like to attend, invite them to join us. If you want to be part of sharing faith with the next generation, let Pastor Marleen know, and we will find ways for you to participate.

### **DAY CAMP WISH LIST**

Pastor Marleen has developed a Wish List for this year's Day Camp which will be held **August 3-7**. Please look over the following list and select something that you might be willing to donate. Keep checking, as well, because the list is sure to be updated as we get closer to August.

Toilet paper rolls

Paper towel rolls

Large metal cans

Scrap paper—especially colored paper

Cardboard boxes

Masking tape

Colored cardstock

Ping pong balls

\*\* children, grandchildren, neighbors!

\*\* loving adults and older youth (Even 2 hours of your time that week helps!)

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## PURSE PROJECT

Again, this spring and summer, the Social Ministry Outreach Committee will be collecting items for their *Purse Project*. **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. Our Purse Project is aimed at supplying women with some of the little things they need to get back on their feet. Here are some items to consider when donating:

### Large purses or totes (preferably new or gently used)

Full size bottle of shampoo	Mints
Wash cloth	Deodorant
Bar of soap	Comb
Body wash	Razor
Toothpaste	Scarf
Toothbrush	Hat
Any hygiene product	Gloves
Make-up	Small first aid kit
Hand wipes	Thermal socks
Bottled Water	Chapstick
Hand sanitizer	Facial Wipes
Hand lotion	Trail Mix
Beef jerky	Gum
Applesauce	Other appropriate items

Containers have been placed at the back entrance of St. Mark for your donations. Please contact Karen Fisher, Chair, Social Ministry Committee, with questions.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases—adults continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities.

**The Social Ministry Outreach Committee is collecting items listed below for Lutheran World Relief to fulfill their urgent need of School Kit requests. We will be collecting items through **September 6.****

Please place items in the containers marked “School Kits.” Thank you so much for helping individuals who are in need.

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8” X 10½”;
- no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½” eraser

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of backpacks, supplies, or shipping fund, please mark your contributions accordingly.

### **HELP WANTED PLEASE—USHER**

We are in need of one usher. You will be asked to usher 2-3 times per year. Please consider volunteering. Contact Shannon Weaver to volunteer at 717-691-1618. Thank you!



# America's 250th Anniversary



## Word Search

S	D	B	E	L	Y	T	R	A	P	A	E	T	E	A	P	R	E
E	E	M	R	S	A	R	A	T	O	G	A	D	M	S	A	R	X
M	L	M	R	I	T	S	S	O	R	Y	S	T	E	B	E	Y	I
T	A	A	I	O	T	I	E	O	C	R	B	A	P	V	T	T	Y
E	W	D	O	Q	U	A	F	L	G	X	D	O	E	I	R	A	N
C	A	I	N	D	U	Y	I	V	A	A	G	R	L	E	A	R	O
I	R	G	O	E	E	E	Q	N	M	S	L	A	F	P	C	B	T
T	E	N	L	L	Q	W	N	S	R	U	U	F	K	S	I	I	G
S	R	B	L	E	A	P	U	C	A	Q	J	Z	W	V	R	L	N
U	I	A	C	I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E	N	I
J	V	S	T	O	L	U	N	I	O	N	O	T	L	I	M	A	H
D	E	H	V	R	C	I	T	O	I	R	T	A	P	Z	A	D	S
N	R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	X	E	K	F	W	A	A
N	O	S	R	E	F	F	E	J	A	B	R	E	N	Y	R	T	W
C	A	T	C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N	D	E	G
H	A	M	S	U	O	I	L	L	E	B	E	R	R	E	I	Q	E
X	N	O	T	O	P	H	I	L	A	D	E	L	P	H	I	A	C
H	O	N	O	R	B	P	H	I	L	A	Y	T	R	E	B	I	L

Adams

America

Britain

Boston

Betsy Ross

Constitution

Delaware River

Eagle

Equality

Flag

Free

Hamilton

Honor

Independence

Jefferson

Justice

Liberty

Patriotic

Paul Revere

Philadelphia

Rebellious

Revolution

Saratoga

Semiquincentennial

Tax

Tea Party

Union

USA

Valley Forge

Washington



July 5 & 19 July 23	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am Book Club
July 26-July 30	Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring
August 2 & 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
August 9	Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park
August 16	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
October (TBA)	In-Gathering for LWR
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 <sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA) November 26	Annual Meeting Tentative Thanksgiving Meal
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

# 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" on 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 sponsors.
- 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!

## LECTIONARY 14

### INVITED

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, “Come to me,” amid a reflection on the mystery of God’s wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God’s wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.

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