

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
NOISY SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: 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

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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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 TODAY:

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS:

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title “Doctor [teacher] of the Church.” Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles
Friday, May 1, 2026

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to “come and see.” Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called “the Less” to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373
Saturday, May 2, 2026

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates the congregation shall rise as able.

PRELUDE

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Arr Whitworth

*GATHERING

P CHRIST IS RISEN.

C HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

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

P Most merciful God,

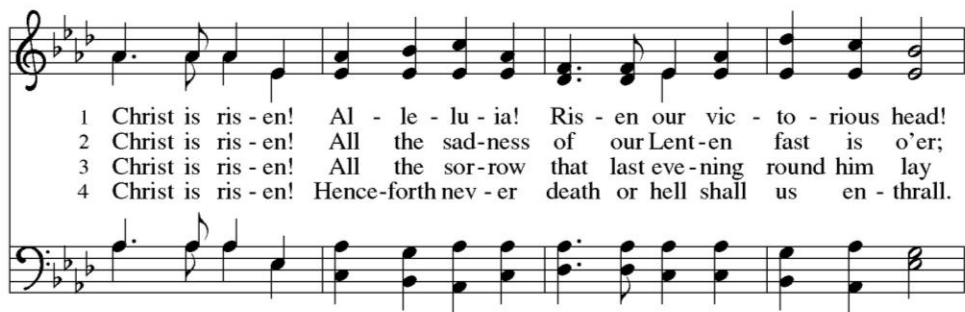
C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

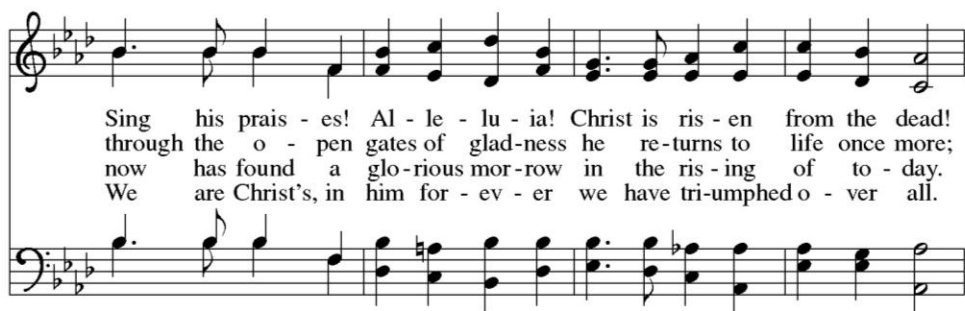
C Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

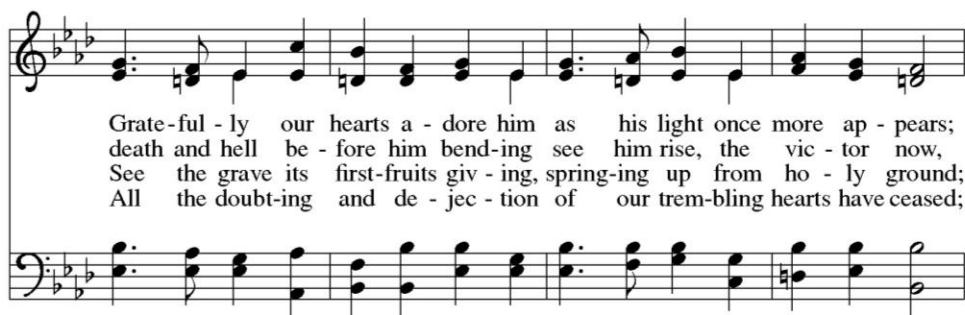
Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



1 Christ is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia! Ris-en our vic-tor-ious head!
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en-thrall.



Sing his prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ is ris-en from the dead!
through the o-pen gates of glad-ness he re-returns to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris-ing of to-day.
We are Christ's, in him for-ev-er we have tri-umphed o-ver all.



Grate-ful-ly our hearts a-dore him as his light once more ap-pears;
death and hell be-fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic-tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv-ing, spring-ing up from ho-ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de-jec-tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow-ing down in joy be-fore him, ris-ing up from griefs and tears.
an-gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo-ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv-ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res-ur-rec-tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

(Continued next page)

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

*GREETING

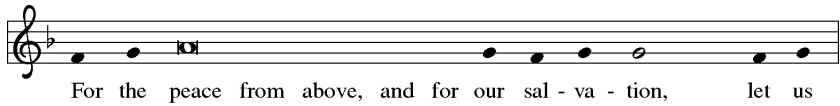
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



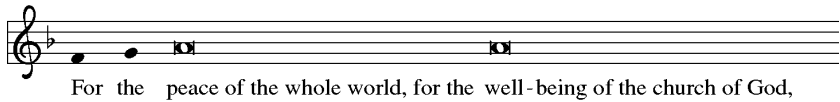
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



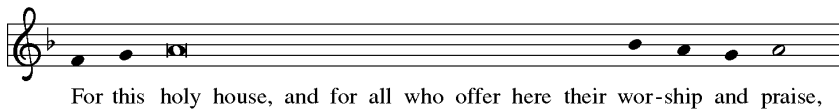
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



A - men.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

(Continued next page.)

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.
 O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Like a Shepherd

C. Nygard

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

P Let us pray.
 Bless O Lord, your servant, Connie, as she reads to us the Holy Word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

R A reading from Acts.

² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PLEASE SING THE WORDS TO PSALM 23

The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

SECOND LESSON: 1st Peter 2:9-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

R A reading from 1st Peter.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

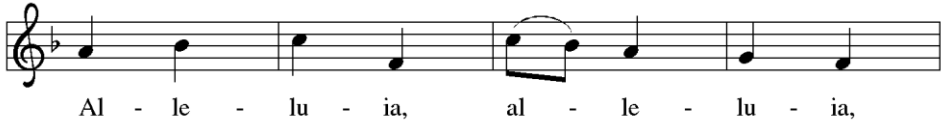
²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

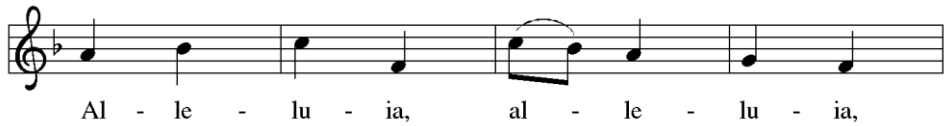
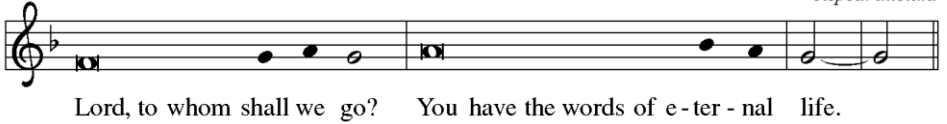
R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA VERSE



Repeat alleluia



JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NOISY SUNDAY

SERMON

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

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
He Leadeth Me

J. Gilmore

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most Holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Text © 1958 *service book and hymnal*, admin. Augsburg fortress.

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

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 him 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



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

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us.
 Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 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 Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.



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.

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

Welcome, Happy Morning!



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished, heav'n is won to - day!"
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high,
all that once had fall - en raise to life a - gain;



Christ, once dead, is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
you, the true and on - ly Son of God a - bove,
Come then, true and faith - ful; come, ful - fill your word;
show your face in bright - ness, shine in ev - 'ry land



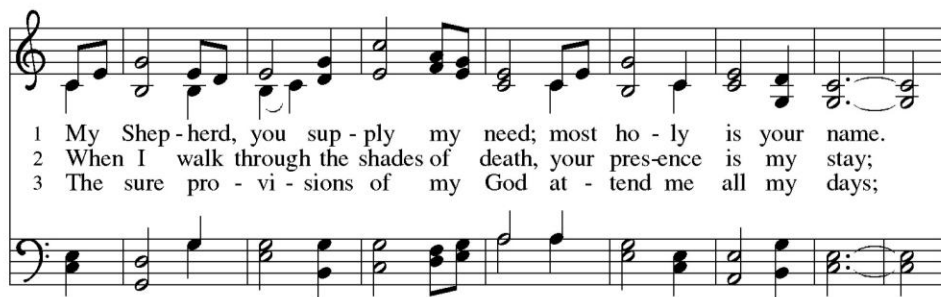
Him, their true cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
died as mor - tal man to save us by your love.
this is your third morn - ing: rise, O bur - ied Lord!
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



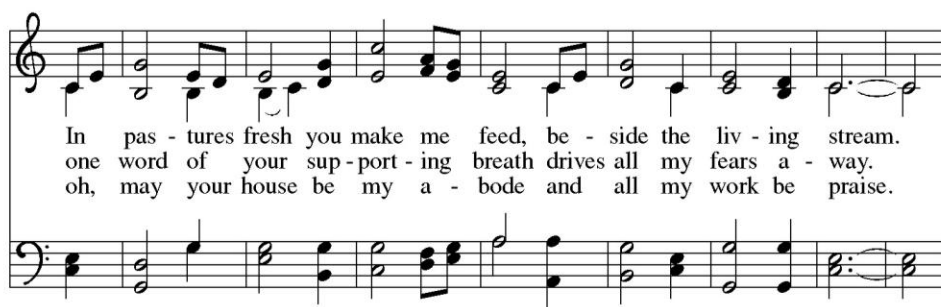
"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say.

COMMUNION HYMN

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;



In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.
oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;
Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.
no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

***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 Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

H.W. Baker



Altar Flowers

In loving memory of Victor L. Miller by Sara Jane Miller

In loving memory of Abraham and Rebecca Burd
by Sara Jane Miller

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Kevin Amos
Lay Reader:	Connie Kuntz
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Ushers:	Charles Rusnak, Karen Rusnak
Altar Guild:	Michele Connor, Cindy Larkin

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, April 26

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Noisy Sunday

Worship Service

Church Sunday School

Children's SS & Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

Monday, April 27

Violin Lessons

German Group

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 28

Social Ministry

1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 29

Bible Study

Vocal Choir

11:00 am

6:30 pm

Thursday, April 30

Violin Lessons

3:15 pm

Friday, May 1

Violin Lessons

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

3:45 pm

7:00 pm

Saturday, May 2

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

6:30 pm

Sunday, May 3

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Service

Church Sunday School

Children's SS & Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

LESSONS:

MAY 3, 2026

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16;

SECOND READING

1st Peter 2:10

GOSPEL

John 14:1-4

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

LAWN TRACTOR

**Thank you for the generous donations!
Our new lawn tractor is paid for!
ALLELUIA!**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT—11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

The attendance at our 11:00 AM am service has been dwindling. So much so that in June of 2025, Council revised the service from every Sunday to the first Sunday of every month. Our hopes were that this would allow people to be able to attend a later service and receive Holy Communion.

Worship & Music has completed a review of the continued declining attendance since September of 2025. In the first four months of 2026, we had zero attendance of our members at the 11:00 AM service. Upon this review, the Worship & Music Committee made a recommendation to Council that we discontinue the 11:00 am service effective with **Sunday, May 3. At Council's April 17 meeting, Council agreed and voted to discontinue the 11:00 AM service.**

We will continue to look at opportunities to allow our congregation to get together for worship.

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 May, June, and July:

May 24 (Pentecost)

June 14

July 19

Ketchup and Mustard

(Wear red and bring red)

Cleaning Products

Brownie and Cake Mixes and Icing

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flower sponsors are needed for **May 3, 17, and 31**. Please use the form located in the bulletins or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sell your stuff or come to shop! Join us on **Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 AM--?** for a yard sale on our back lawn. Everyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 AM. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 AM. If you would like to use one of our tables, we are requesting a donation of \$10.00. You must carry it out and return. Refreshments will be available for a free will offering.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting is **May 12 at 1:00 PM**. The book is "*The Red Tent*," by Anita Diamont. *The Red Tent* (1997) is a compelling retelling of the biblical story from the perspective of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah. The book explores Dinah's experiences as a woman in the biblical era, her time in the red tent, and her ill-fated love affair with Prince Shalem. The novel highlights family dynamics, female empowerment, and the lives of strong, distinct women within Jacob's household. Readers follow Dinah from childhood through her adulthood, including her work as a midwife in Egypt and her struggle to find independence from her family. Anita Diamant's narrative transforms a brief biblical account into a rich, intimate story of love, loss, and resilience.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. We encourage you to share and invite a friend. The book is available through the library, Amazon, or Thrift books.

PRAYER LIST UPDATING

The current Prayer List will be emptied at the end of April. If you would like an individual's name to remain on the Prayer List, please contact Karen in the church office.

SPREAD TAN BARK—WE NEED YOU!!!

We will be spreading tan bark on **Saturday, May 16, beginning at 8:00 AM, rain or shine**. Shovels, pitchforks, rakes and/or wheelbarrows are helpful to bring, but are not required. Please let Ben Yost know if you plan to be there. The more, the merrier, and the quicker it gets done!

Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

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

- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____
- To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Phone #: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

Date Requested: _____

- Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



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



Please check any that apply!

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

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

THANK YOU!



Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Place: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
Back Yard

Set Up: Starts at 7:00 AM

Sell: 9:00 AM
Trinkets and Treasures

Tables: Available from church to use. You must carry outside and return. *(We are requesting a \$10.00 donation towards the purchase of a new sign for our back yard.)*

Refreshments:
Free-will donation.



Geraniums for

Geraniums for Pentecost

If you would like to sponsor a geranium for Pentecost on **May 24**, please complete the form below.

The cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please place the form with your payment in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 3.

Please make checks payable to **St. Mark Lutheran Church** and put **“Altar Guild”** on the memo line.

The geraniums will be planted in the flower beds of the church on **May 26**.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

To the Glory of God

Presented by _____

_____ Total number of geraniums ordered

Amount of Check: \$ _____

-WORD SEARCH-

Good Shepherd Word-Find



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

Try to find the words in CAPITALS. The left-over letters will tell you what Jesus wants you to do.

JESUS said: "I am the GOOD Shepherd. A good shepherd LAYS down his life for the sheep. A HIRED MAN, who is not a shepherd, and whose sheep are NOT his own, SEES a WOLF coming and LEAVES the sheep and RUNS away, and the wolf CATCHES them and SCATTERS them. This is because he WORKS for PAY and has no CONCERN for the SHEEP. I am the Good SHEPHERD, and I know mine and MINE know me, just as the FATHER knows me and I KNOW the Father; and I will lay down my LIFE for the sheep.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

The images in today's texts provide us with much food for thought and action. Psalm 23 tells of a shepherd who leads us to green pastures and refreshing waters, walks alongside us as we face challenging times, takes us to a table already set, and anoints us with oil to mark each of us as chosen. We are heard, seen, known, valued, and loved, and remain in the Shepherd's presence for all time.

Jesus' words in the gospel reading add to the image of a loving and caring shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name, while the sheep follow because they recognize that voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows us well and calls each of us by name. Jesus also serves as the gate for the sheep, guarding and protecting us in the sheepfold, while also providing access to pastureland. This protection and access give us the space to be who we are, with no need to play games or pretend to be someone we are not. And when it comes right down to it, the Good Shepherd comes to give us abundant life—new life in relationship with God, others, and all creation.

The reading from Acts 2 provides an image of abundant life among the early Christians, a life with an extravagance of worship, fellowship, prayer, generosity, service to others, and thankfulness.

How does the image of the Good Shepherd sit with you? How do you picture the relationship between you and Jesus—with shepherd and sheep imagery, or something else? Where and how do you recognize the Good Shepherd's voice? Do you know someone who has abundant life in Christ—a life of faith, joy, and love? What would such a life look like for you, and for your faith community?

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