

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
APRIL 19, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
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

11:00 am - First Sunday of Each Month

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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

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Brad Hull, Director of Music

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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’s gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord’s Day.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS:**

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church  
Sunday, April 19, 2026**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Mark, Evangelist**

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

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

## PRELUDE

*I Am the Lord of the Dance*  
St. Mark Bell Choir

M. Ryan

### I AM THE LORD OF THE DANCE

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on Your back;  
They buried My body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut Me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

#### *Refrain*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.*

## \*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**

Please bring peanut butter and jelly for New Hope to the altar during the singing of the Gathering Song.

**Low in the Grave He Lay**  
*Up from the Grave He Arose*



1 Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,  
2 Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;  
3 Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;



wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord.  
vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord.  
he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord.

*Refrain*



Up from the grave he a - rose, with a might-y tri-umph o'er his foes;



he a - rose a vic - tor o - ver death's do - main, and he lives for - ev - er, with his



saints to reign. He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: CHRIST AROSE, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

## \*GREETING

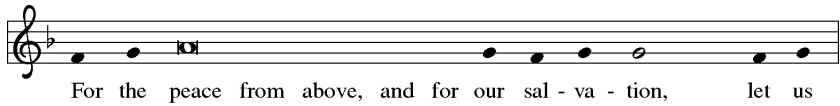
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## \*KYRIE



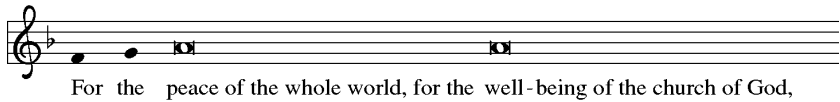
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



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



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



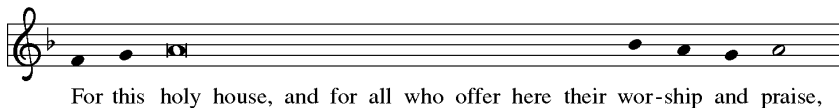
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.  
**P** O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**CHILDREN'S ANTHEM**

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen*

Michael Bedford

**BLESSING OF THE LECTOR**

- P** Let us pray.  
 Bless O Lord, your servant, Dave, as he 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 2:14a, 36-41**

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

**R** A reading from Acts.

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17**  
*(Please read the Psalm in unison.*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

<sup>2</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>3</sup> Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

<sup>10</sup> How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?

<sup>11</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

<sup>13</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants.

<sup>14</sup> O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

(Continued next page)

<sup>15</sup> I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

<sup>17</sup> in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

## SECOND LESSON: 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:17-23

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

R        A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

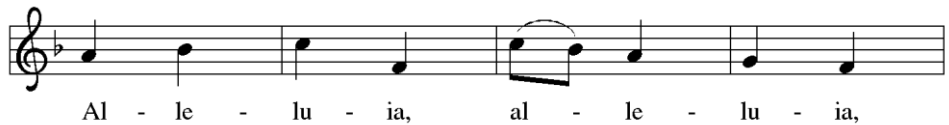
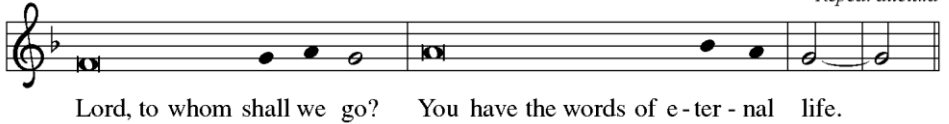
R        Word of God, word of life.

C        Thanks be to God.

## \*ALLELUIA VERSE



*Repeat alleluia*



## \*GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of

Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## 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 Lives*

A. Ackley

## \*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

### This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

#### *Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

**\*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

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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

Trumpet Tune on *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”* D. Lasky



In memory of Donald C. Fissel by Susan Fissel

### TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Tina Freidhof
Lay Reader:	Dave Harnish
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Ushers:	Matt Yost, Kevin Amos
Altar Guild:	Terry Shaner, Connie Kuntz

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, April 19

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Peanut Butter and Jelly Sunday  
for New Hope  
Worship Service  
Church Sunday School  
Children's SS & Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, April 20

8:00 am Garden Club  
2:45 pm Violin Lessons  
7:00 pm German Group

Tuesday, April 21

Wednesday, April 22

11:00 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, April 23

3:15 pm Violin Lessons  
6:30 pm Ladies Night Out at Red Lobster

Friday, April 24

3:45 pm Violin Lessons  
7:00 pm Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Saturday, April 25

6:30 pm Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, April 26

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Noisy Sunday  
Worship Service  
Church Sunday School  
Children's SS & Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

APRIL 26, 2026

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

## -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### 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 April, May, and June:

April 19 (TODAY)  
May 24 (Pentecost)

Peanut Butter and Jelly  
Ketchup and Mustard  
*(Wear red and bring red)*  
Cleaning Products

June 14

### LAWN TRACTOR

The current outstanding balance for the new lawn tractor is \$1,002. If you would like to help pay for the tractor, please use one of the "Special Offering" lines on your offering envelope and mark it "mower." Thank you to those who have contributed so far.

### LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

Ladies and Friends will be dining at Red Lobster on the Carlisle Pike on **Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 pm. All ladies and their friends are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Karen Fisher in the church office no later than Tuesday, April 21.**

### 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 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, 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

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Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of geraniums ordered

Amount of Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

-WORD SEARCH-

# On The Road To Emmaus

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

disappeared	scriptures	jerusalem	followers	blessing
miracles	nazareth	suddenly	genesis	passage
missing	morning	teacher	prophet	visitor
cleopas	talking	begged	angels	emmaus
risen	bread	alive	tomb	

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### THE WAY OF RESURRECTION

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device; one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

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