

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 2, 2026
10TH 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 (1st & 3rd Sundays in August)

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

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

SPECIAL MUSIC

DR. BEN LOUGHEED CLASSICAL GUITAR

BIOGRAPHY



Described as creating "music of dramatic power and lyric beauty," Dr. Ben Lougheed is known for his "beautifully polished, passionate, and engaging performances." Ben's multifaceted career includes over a decade of concertizing, community engagement, music entrepreneurship, and education. Audiences, colleagues, and critics have called Ben "an emerging force in the classical guitar world" and "without question a first-rate artist."

Lougheed has performed extensively around the U.S., including recent performances for the Interlochen Arts Academy, Guitar Sarasota, Utah Classical Guitar, the Treasure Coast Guitar Society, Kerrytown Concert House, and the Dale Mabry Guitar Series. Presenters have praised him for his "virtuosic technique," "delicate interpretation," and "high level of artistry."

Ben is also a highly sought-after and accomplished instructor who currently teaches at the Temple Music Preparatory. He has previously taught at Florida State University and Pensacola State College. His dedication to teaching has led to significant success by his students, who have won auditions for All-State and All-National guitar ensembles, as well as prizes at multiple competitions. Due to his impressive record and substantial Suzuki training, Ben has been invited to teach around the country.

Ben's debut album, *Baroque Legacies*, intertwines music by influential and celebrated Baroque composers with contemporary pieces inspired by these musical giants. It has been described as "an inspiration," "perfectly performed," "technically superb," and "emotionally delicious from start to finish." His second album, *Dancing on Six Strings*, was released in 2025 on the Frameworks label.

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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 THE DAY

In today’s first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

SPECIAL MUSIC WELCOME—DR. BEN LOUGHEED

This morning we welcome and sincerely thank Dr. Ben Lougheed, Classical Guitarist, who will perform for us. Dr. Lougheed’s Biography is located on the previous page.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221
Saturday, August 8, 2026**

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Prelude from Suite in C minor, BWV 997

J.S. Bach

Ben Loughheed

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*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 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 Merciful and loving God,

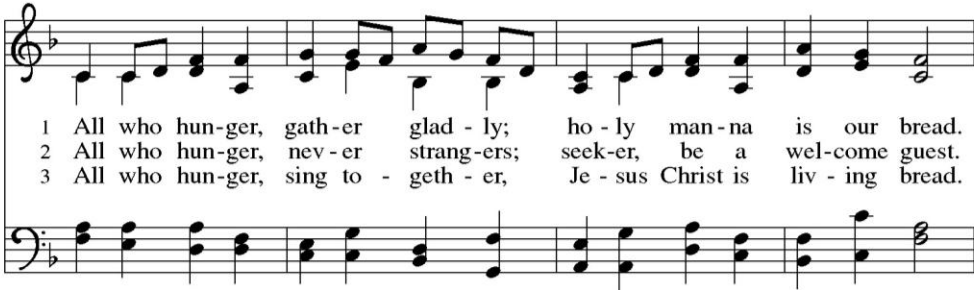
C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

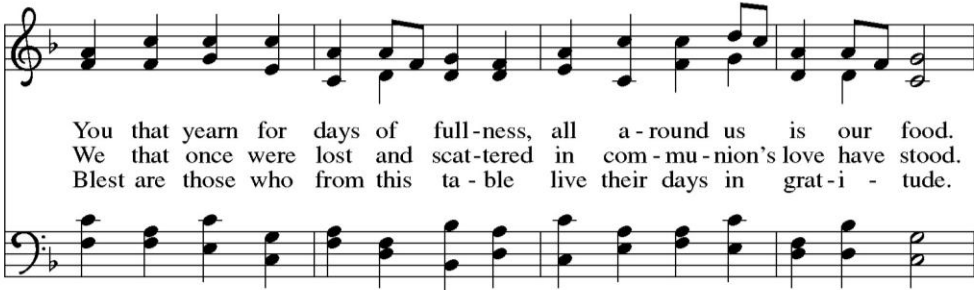
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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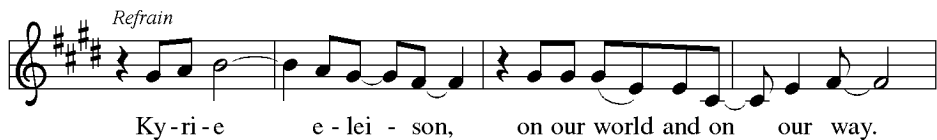
Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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*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



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



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



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,



*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



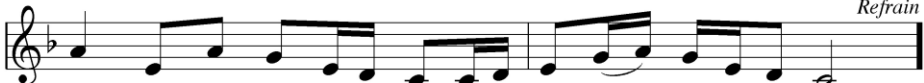
Lis - ten! you na-tions of the world: lis-ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



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



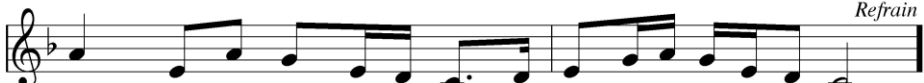
1 The Lord who scat-tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



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 Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Mazurka Appassionata

Ben Loughheed

Agustin Barrios

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

R A reading from Isaiah

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

(Continued next page)

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22

(Please read the Psalm in unison.)

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹ The LORD is loving to everyone, and his compassion is over all his works.

¹⁵ The LORD upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁶ The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁷ You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

¹⁸ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.

¹⁹ The LORD is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.

²⁰ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.

²¹ The LORD preserves all those who love him, but he destroys all the wicked.

²² My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

R A reading from Romans.

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14:13-21**

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the
church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

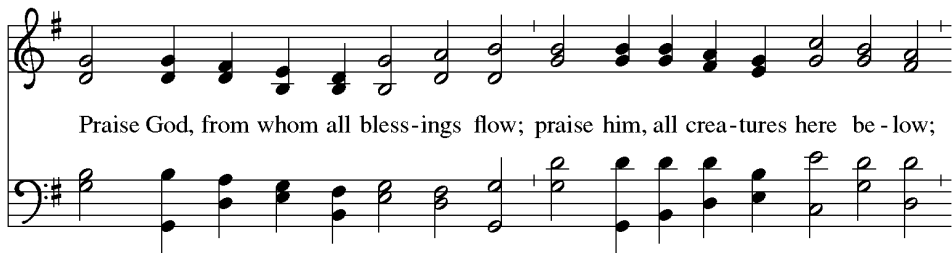
Sarabande from Suite in C minor, BWV 997

J.S. Bach

Ben Lougheed

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can
taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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**

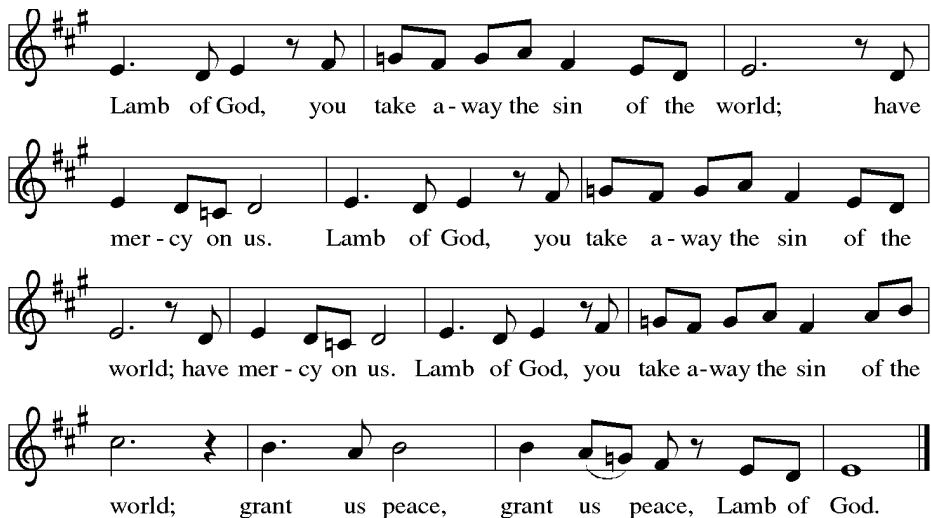
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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 Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



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.

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

Break Now the Bread of Life

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. Each line of music is accompanied by a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.

Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

-COMMUNION MUSIC-

(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 O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

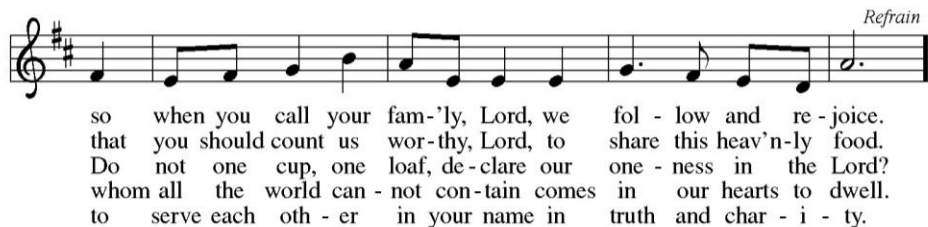
***BLESSING**

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart *Gift of Finest Wheat*



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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(Please be seated for announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Finale and Fughetta

J.K.F. Fischer



In memory of our parents, Tom and Jean Yost, by Ben and Barb Yost.

In loving memory of our father, Graham Brown, by Marlin and Sandy Brown.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flowers are needed for August 30 (one vase). We need all of September (both vases) except September 20 and 27. We need one vase for October 4 and both vases for October 18 and 25. In November, we need one vase for November 22. Sponsor sheets are located at entrances to the church, in bulletins, and newsletters, or you may contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Denise Hirn
Lay Reader:	Sara Jane Miller
Acolyte:	Brett Hirn
Ushers:	Scott Kreiger, Deb Kreiger
Altar Guild:	Terry Shaner, Susan Fissel
Zoom Operator:	Lori Clelan
Council Money Duty:	Terry Shaner, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, August 2

8:30 am

9:45 am

10:00 am

12:00 pm

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Service—Communion

Summer Fellowship

Outdoor Worship Service

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, August 3

8:30 am

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

St. Mark Day Camp

Violin Lessons

German Club

Tuesday, August 4

8:30 am

1:00 pm

St. Mark Day Camp

Fellowship Committee

Wednesday, August 5

8:30 am

St. Mark Day Camp

Thursday, August 6

8:30 am

7:00 pm

St. Mark Day Camp

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, August 7

8:30 am

2:45 pm

St. Mark Day Camp

Violin Lessons

Saturday, August 8

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, August 9

8:30 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Service—Communion

Summer Fellowship

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

AUGUST 9, 2026

1st Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

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)

DAY CAMP WISH LIST

Thank you for all your donations to Day Camp! We are ready for a fun-filled week. Special thanks to all who stayed after church for many weeks cutting toilet paper rolls, cutting and folding magazine pages, and shredding paper for our activities this year.

We do have two final requests...

- We need to borrow some old towels to make paper
- We also need some dryer lint

Of course, we still appreciate your time and children and grandchildren and their friends to learn and grow in faith with us

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. 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 Sunday, 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.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Start the school year off by joining us for the blessing of backpacks. During the service on **Sunday, August 16**, Pastor Marleen will bless the backpacks/bookbags of students and teachers for a spirit-filled sendoff into the new academic year.



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.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for August, September, and October:

August 16

September 20

October 18

Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli

Puddings and Applesauce

Canned Vegetables

SAVE THE DATE—WinGS POTLUCK SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) will be having a Potluck Planning Meeting for their 2026-2027 season at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8**, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Future meetings will be held in the church parlor. All are welcome, and consider bringing a friend.



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK
1 Memorial Park Drive
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

Arrive at park:	12:00 pm
Picnic Lunch:	1:00 pm
Games & Bingo:	2:00 pm

We have reserved the “Baseball Pavilion” to the right of the restrooms upon entering the park. The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, ketchup, mustard, lemonade/tea, and water. **Please bring a salad, casserole, vegetable, or dessert to share.** There are some electric outlets in the pavilion if you would like to bring a hot dish that needs plugged in. Hoping to see everyone there.

Please sign up at entrances to St. Mark. Contact Marlin Brown, Chair, Fellowship, if you have any questions.



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 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
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 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 26	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: _____

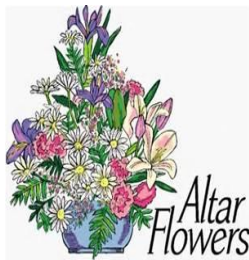
Date Requested: _____

- ☐ 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" 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 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 18

TRUE ABUNDANCE

In our gospel reading, Jesus hears about John the Baptizer's death and wants to be alone, to withdraw "to a deserted place" (Matthew 14:13). But the crowds follow him, the disciples follow him, and it seems everyone wants something from him. Jesus' response is compassionate, and he meets their needs, healing those who were sick. Then evening falls, and the disciples come to him with a request: "You've healed everyone. Now send them home. They can buy food in the villages for themselves."

Some compassion is needed here for the disciples too. With the twelve of them plus Jesus, there are at least thirteen people to feed with what they have—just five loaves and two fish. That's not enough even for them.

So Jesus does this miracle—he takes what he is given and multiplies it so everyone has something to eat, and there are twelve baskets left over. (Twelve baskets means one for each disciple to carry and then realize that true abundance comes from Jesus!)

The miracle fed the people, but it also taught the disciples that, with Jesus, there is always compassion and always enough to share. After feeding the thousands, each disciple now had a basket full of food. By sharing what they had, through Jesus they received back more than they had to begin with.

This is the true message of Matthew's text today: God gives us what we need, we share what we have with others, and in the end, we are given more than we could ever imagine. This is loving the neighbor. This is being God's grace in the world. At no time is sending people away God's answer. Jesus taught his disciples this important lesson, and we continue to learn and struggle with it today.

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