

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 16, 2026
12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

10:00 am - Last Outdoor Service for the Summer - August 16

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

DANIEL HAGENBUCH VIOLINIST

BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Hagenbuch is an award-winning composer and accomplished violinist from Mechanicsburg, PA. By sharing his music, Hagenbuch aims to cultivate greater appreciation for our world and understanding of each other. Hagenbuch's music compositions have been performed by members of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Peabody Institute Conductors' Orchestra, Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra, TAK Ensemble, counter) induction, and the Contemporary Art Music Project. Hagenbuch is a 2025 graduate of the Peabody Institute where he earned his master's in music composition and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). As a violinist, Hagenbuch has performed with the CCM Concert Orchestra, Peabody Composers Ensemble, Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra, Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra, Hershey Symphony Orchestra, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Hagenbuch has experience working as a music educator for multiple years throughout South-Central Pennsylvania and Maryland, offering private instruction in violin, viola, piano, and composition.

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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 Isaiah we hear that God’s house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today’s gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

PRELUDE

Special Music: Daniel Hagenbuch
Gigue from Partita No. 1 for Solo Violin

J.S. Bach

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.

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

*GATHERING HYMN

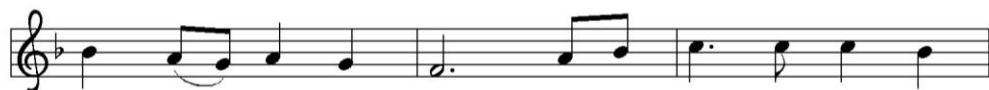
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

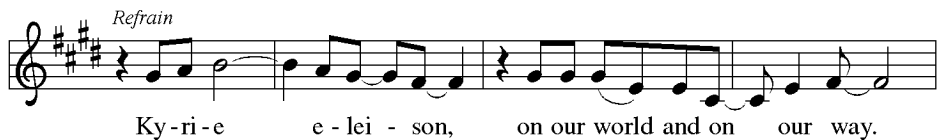


all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

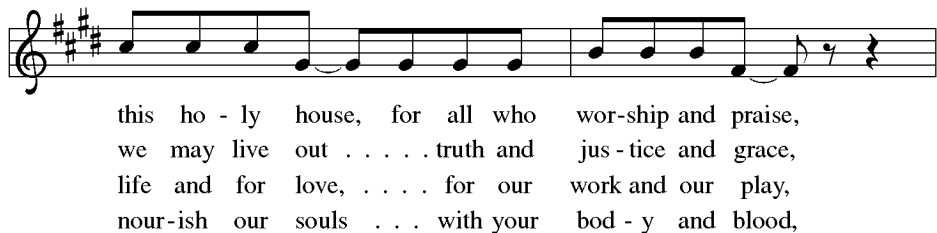
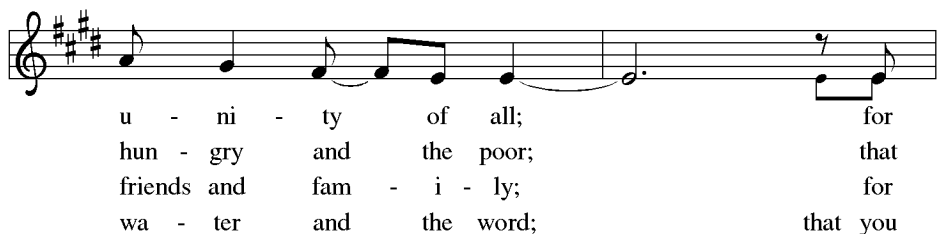
*GREETING

- 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



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



*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain

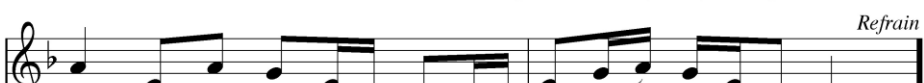


Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



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

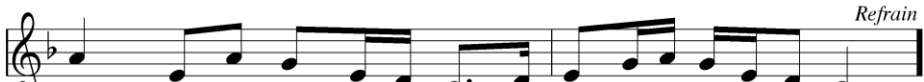
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



Refrain

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

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



Refrain

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

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 God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Special Music: Daniel Hagenbuch and Thelma Fissel
He Leadeth Me

W. Bradbury

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

(Please read the Psalm responsively; women the regular print; men the bold print.)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

² **Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

⁷ May God give us his blessing and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

R A reading from Romans.

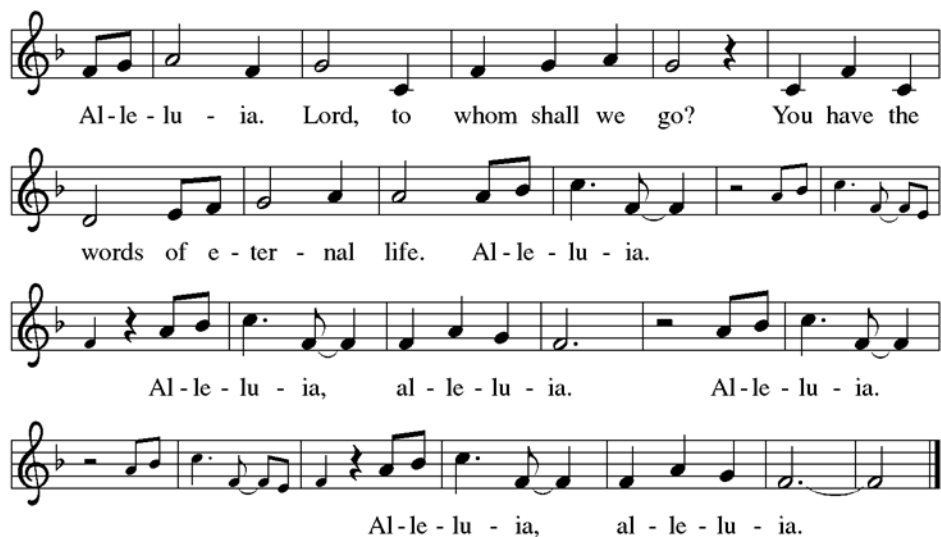
[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BACKPACK BLESSING

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

Special Music: Daniel Hagenbuch

Nocturne for Violin and Piano

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first system of music covers the lyrics 'Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;'. The second system covers 'praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.' The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

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.

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.

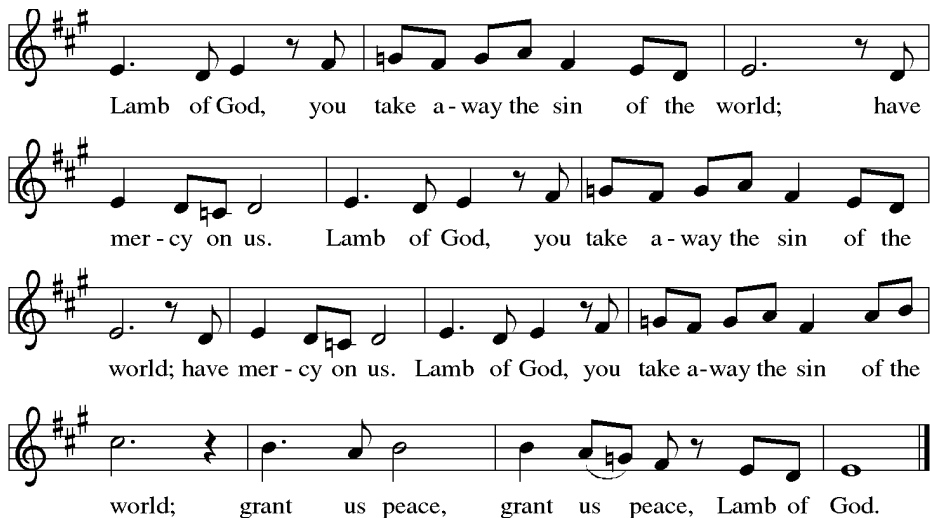
C Amen.

***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.



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-

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561

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-COMMUNION-

In Christ There Is No East or West

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

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

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily carried by the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the four parts of the choir.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

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

(Please stand as you are able.)

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

C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A 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.

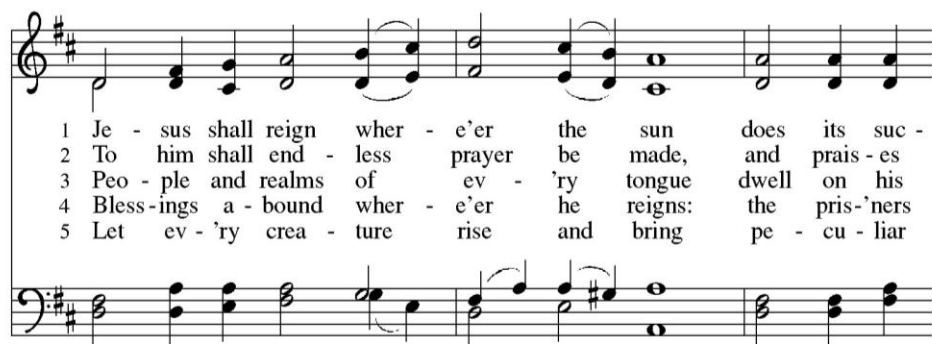
***BLESSING**

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.

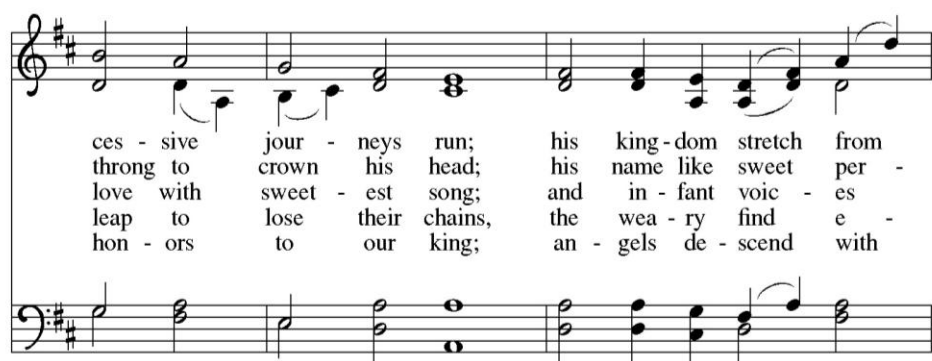
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

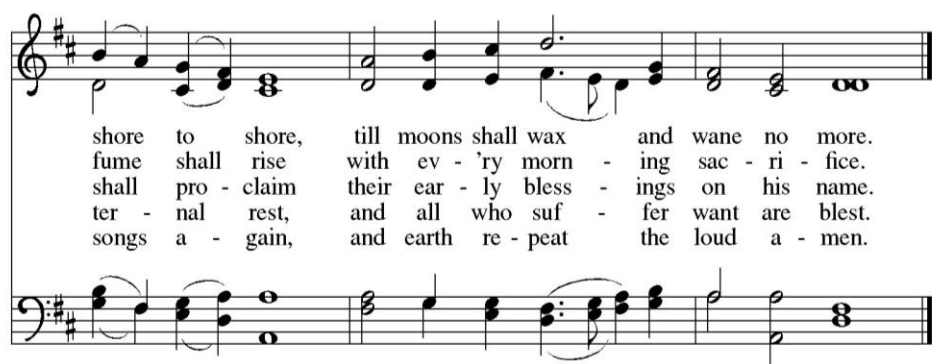
Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

2-part Invention #5 in E-flat Major

J.S. Bach



In loving memory of my brother, Fred Sanders, on his heavenly August 13 birthday by Karen Fisher.

In honor and celebration of my oldest grandson, Timothy David Thomas, on his August 13 birthday by Karen Fisher.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Barb Yost

Lay Reader: Matt Yost

Acolyte: Katie Stull

Ushers: Matt Yost, Shannon Weaver

Altar Guild: Sara Jane Miller, Cindy Larkin

Zoom Operator Gene Shaner

Council Money Duty: Terry Shaner, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, August 16

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Canned Spaghetti-O's & Ravioli for
New Hope
Backpack Blessing
Worship Service—Communion
Summer Fellowship
Outdoor Service
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, August 17

2:45 pm Violin Lessons
7:00 pm German Club

Tuesday, August 18

6:30 pm Church Council

Wednesday, August 19

11:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, August 20

2:45 Violin Lessons
7:00 pm Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, August 21

2:45 pm Violin Lessons

Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23

8:30 am **13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:45 am Worship Service—Communion
12:00 pm Summer Fellowship
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

AUGUST 23, 2026

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

THANK YOU

Thank you, Daniel Hagenbuch and Thelma Fissel for providing special music during our worship service this morning.

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)

BACKPACK BLESSING

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



MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

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

TODAY, August 16	Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli
September 20	Puddings and Applesauce
October 18	Canned Vegetables

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.

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.

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.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY

On **Sunday, September 13**, the approximately 8,400 congregations of the ELCA will gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. The Social Ministry Committee is repeating the project of preparing a spaghetti dinner, salad, bread, and dessert to take to our shut-ins and residents of group homes in the Mechanicsburg area. **We are requesting donations of spaghetti, desserts, as well as monetary donations to help defray the cost of the meatballs, salad, and bread.** In addition, we will need volunteers

to deliver the meals. Please use the sign-up sheets at entrances to the church to volunteer.

In addition to the spaghetti dinner, we will be assembling school kits, making greeting cards, and putting together kits for Caitlin's Smiles. Read more about this wonderful organization here:

<https://www.caitlins-smiles.org/>. Additional service projects will be added when identified. **Volunteers from previous years should plan on wearing their "God's Work. Our Hands" bright yellow t-shirts.**

HOSS'S CROP WALK RECRUITER'S RALLY COMMUNITY DAY FUND RAISER

Please save the date and plan ahead to eat at the Mechanicsburg HOSS'S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) anytime during the day on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. Coupons, which must be presented at HOSS'S when you order your meals, will be available at all entrances of our church as soon as they are received.

PEACHES AND (ICE) CREAM

On **September 20**, please join us **following the 8:30 am service (about 9:45 am) for our annual peaches and ice cream event**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall to enjoy peach treats.





August 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 16	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
September 13	God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 17	Community Day for CROP Walk (all day at HOSS’S)
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	55th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Thanksgiving Meal
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY FLYER

(Copies of the flyer are available at entrances to St. Mark.)

Come, "pray with your feet" and "walk your values" at the
Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger 5K Walk/Run



to benefit
**New Hope Ministries,
Mechanicsburg Area
Meals on Wheels** and
the global relief efforts
of **Church World
Service**

Sun., Oct. 18, 2026

**Memorial Park, 1 Memorial Park Dr.,
Mechanicsburg, PA**

1:00PM Registration 1:20PM Team Pics
1:50PM Kick-Off 2:00PM Walk/Run Starts

Register online & donate by Sept. 25th and receive a CROP Walk T-shirt.
Strollers & Leashed Dogs Welcome Live DJ Refreshments afterwards

There is no cost to walk but **generous donations to CWS/CROP are invited to help us reach the \$50,000 goal!** Since 1971, the Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger walk has raised over **\$727,730** to feed the poor.



Use the **link** below or the **QR code** to make a donation, register or sponsor a walker/runner.

You may also register the day of the walk.

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

Find us on Facebook: **CROP Hunger Walk – Mechanicsburg/West Shore**

For more info, contact:

Ulli Klemm

ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748



Join us as we **"Believe There is Good in the World."**

Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

Hunger Walk: **Thurs., Sept. 17, 2026**

61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055



Present a copy of this flyer when ordering lunch, dinner or a take-out on Sept. 17, 2026, and Hoss's Mechanicsburg will donate up to 25% of your total check to feed the hungry. **Group # 133543.** Complete the CROP Walk Activity Page and spin to win a prize!

Jesus and Canaanite woman

(Mt 15:21-28)



Find the
hidden
words



Jesus
Tyre
Sidon
Pity
Word
Daughter
Disciples
Sheep
Israel
Lord
Food
Dogs
Table
Faith



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: _____

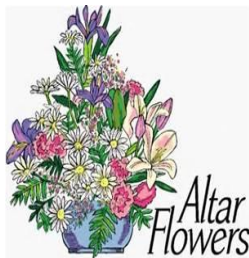
Date Requested: _____

- ☐ 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!

Our friend and church member, Charlene Albert, has requested a Surprise Card Shower for her son, Charles.

He will be **70 years old on August 29.**

Please send cards to Charles at Charlene's address:

Charles Albert
C/O Charlene Albert
145 Easterly Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050



Thank you for helping Charles celebrate his 70th birthday.

LECTIONARY 20

BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places. As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?

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