

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021



## Welcome and Worship Announcements

### Prelude "Where Charity and Love Prevail" arr. Valerie A. Floeter

*After a twenty-five year career as a software engineer, Valerie Floeter earned a Master of Church Music degree in 2002, and has published over 300 compositions for piano, organ, and other instruments. This piece is based on a shape-note tune from 1813, with words dating back to the eighth or ninth century (#359 in the hymnal).*

*The congregation stands*

### Invocation

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

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives  
with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

## “We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord;  
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy church acknowledges you:

**Father, of majesty unbounded;  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise;  
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you took on our flesh to set us free,  
you did not despise the Virgin’s womb.

**You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

Come, then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

**Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.  
Govern and uphold them now and always.  
Day by day we bless you. We praise your name for ever.  
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, show us your love and mercy, for we have put our trust in you.  
In you, Lord, is our hope: let us never be put to shame.**

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated*

## Children's Sermon

### First Reading

**Acts 10: 44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### Psalm 22: 24-30

**Spoken responsively by verse**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song,

who has done marvelous things,

<sup>2</sup>**whose right hand and holy arm  
have won the victory.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has made known his victory;

God's righteousness is revealed in the sight of the nations.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is faithful and merciful to the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

<sup>5</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.**

<sup>7</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

<sup>9</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to judge the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall judge the world in righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

## **Second Reading**

**1 John 5: 1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*The congregation stands*

## **Gospel**

**John 15: 9-17**

The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated*

## **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Voluntary**

**“What Wondrous Love is This?”**

**arr. Terry D. Wilson**

*This is a setting of one of the finest American folk hymns. The words were first published in 1811, and the tune is derived from an English ballad probably from the early 1700s. Text and tune were first joined in The Southern Harmony, published by William “Singin’ Billy” Walker of Spartanburg, SC in 1840.*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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

### Peace

*The congregation is seated*

### Offering

### Offertory

**“Come, Let Us Eat”**

**arr. Frank Ferko**

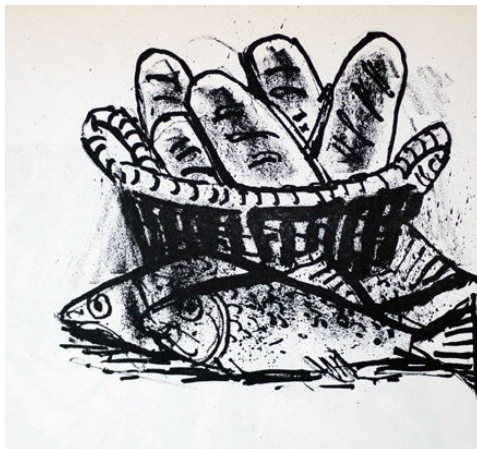
*“Come, Let Us Eat” is a hymn by Billema Kwillia, originally in the Loma language. Kwillia is a Liberian literacy teacher, evangelist, and preacher. She first sang this hymn at a meeting in the 1960s, and it was recorded, written down, and published in 1970. You may recognize it as the offertory hymn used in Marty Haugen’s “Tree of Life” setting of the liturgy.*

*The congregation stands*

### Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

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

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.  
That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.



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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The congregation is seated*



## Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation stands*

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

**"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

**arr. Healey Willan**

*This is a setting of hymn #631. Healey Willan (1880-1968) was born and educated in England and moved to Canada in his early 30s, where he spent the rest of his life.*

*Honored by religious and educational institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, this "Dean of Canadian composers" was the first musician to appear on Canadian postage. He inspired a generation to believe they could make a career out of music composition.*

**Do you miss singing hymns? We do too!** While health guidelines continue to preclude in-person singing, we are making available three hymns every Sunday on our Facebook page. If you watch the livestream, just stick around after the postlude. If you are attending in person, you'll find them as a separate post on our Facebook page, generally posted at noon each Sunday. As always, you do not have to have a Facebook account to access these videos. If you don't have a hymnal at home, the words and music are being published on our website under "Ministry News." Make a joyful noise with us this Sunday!

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## **Ministers**

The People of God at St. Mark's

## **Staff**

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith  
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Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation: Deacon Kathryn Rivers  
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Cantor: David Anderson  
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Parish Administrator: Scottie Miller  
[admin@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheran.net)

Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry  
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Facilities Manager: Steve Henry  
[facilities@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:facilities@stmarkslutheran.net)

## **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

## **Our Mission**

Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith, serving all people

## **Our Vision**

Transforming lives through God's grace as an inclusive, intergenerational congregation  
in Worship, Outreach, Learning, and Fellowship.