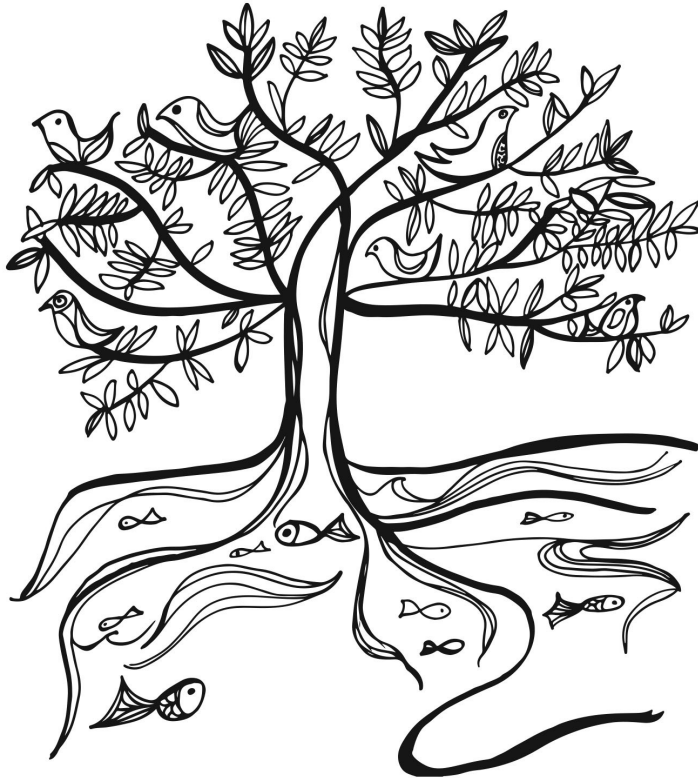


## Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 18, 2025**

*We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together.*

*Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their hymnals, bulletins, and to sing and speak loudly! We value the noise made by children!*

*If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.*

*Visitors, we are especially glad to see you. Please come again!!*

*God's Blessing,  
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church*

— The **BOLD** is read by the Congregation—

The Small Church with a **Big** Heart

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
THE GATHERING

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

*A moment of silence for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

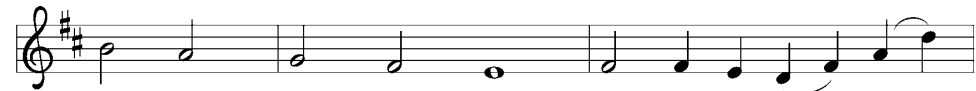
ELW 619

*Please sing verses 1, 2, 4, & 8*

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 He lives to bless me with his love;<br>he lives to plead for me above;<br>he lives my hungry soul to feed;<br>he lives to help in time of need.                       | 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;<br>he lives, and I shall conquer death;<br>he lives my mansion to prepare;<br>he lives to bring me safely there. |
| 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;<br>he lives and loves me to the end;<br>he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;<br>he lives, my prophet, priest, and king! | 8 He lives, all glory to his name!<br>He lives, my Savior, still the same;<br>what joy this blest assurance gives:<br>I know that my Redeemer lives!    |

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING:

**Acts 11:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.

<sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM:

**Psalms 148**

*The psalm will be read responsively by the congregation*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> **sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;**  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> **Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**  
<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and  
praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel,  
a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING:

**Revelation 21:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

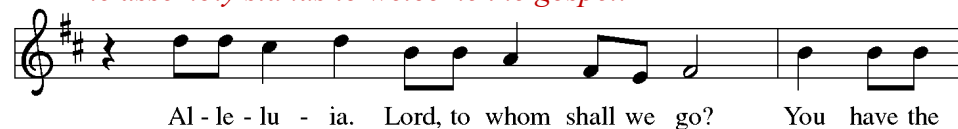
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 142

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



## GOSPEL:

**John 13:31-35**

The holy gospel according to...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILRENS SERMON

## SERMON

Pastor Lue Moua

## BLESSING OF GRADUATES

We are delighted to recognize our high school graduates here today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed one phase of their lives and move with great expectations onto another.

High school graduates and family, please come before the congregation as your names are called.

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, be mindful of your grounding in faith, and of your vocation to serve God in all your life's work and accomplishments.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially for the milestones that Katelyn, Hunter, JD, Rachel and Jonathan will have attained in their upcoming graduations. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they also know your love and experience your peace in all the experiences they encounter.

Bless also the parents of these students who have raised their children and nourished them in the Christian faith. Give them strength in your continuing presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters who may be leaving home soon to begin new and varied ventures, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Parents, please place your hand on your child's shoulder during the following words.*

*The congregation is invited to raise your hands during the blessing.*

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*At this time, our Saint Mark's Lutheran WELCA will present blankets to our graduating seniors. Once all graduates have received their blankets, the congregation may clap and celebrate with cheers.*

The blanket acts as a symbol of those prayers to bring new life, new hope, and joy to those who receive it. Many blessings to you in your new journey in life.



## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

*Please sing 2 times*

### HE IS LORD

60

Based on Phil. 2:11

Traditional

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is ris - en from the dead, and He is

Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess That Je - sus Christ is Lord.

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## APOSTLES' CREED

*Gathered together, let us confess our faith...*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: ...Hear us, O God ,  
The congregation responds: **Your mercy is great .**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*You can send your offering through the mail to :*

***Saint Mark's Lutheran Church***

***PO Box 206***

***Randolph MN 55065***

*or download the **Vanco Mobile** app on your mobile phone  
or go to our **website** and click on the give button on the top.*



## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

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.**

## THE MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*In the night in which he was betrayed...*

*...Do this for the remembrance of me.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Lord's banquet is before you, taste and see that God is good.

### DISTRIBUTION

***For those communing at the altar:***

*Pastor will direct one side of the sanctuary at a time to come to the altar. You will form a single file line in the middle aisle. You will receive bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from the communion assistant. Once you receive communion and wine, please return to your pew.*

*If you have limited mobility, please let the pastor know and pastor will come to your seat with communion and wine.*

*If you need gluten-free options, please let the pastor know.*

***For those communing online:***

*After communion at the altar is completed, Pastor will commune those who are joining us virtually. Please take out your bread. Pastor will say, "The body of Christ given for you," and you may eat the bread.*

*Please take out your wine or juice. Pastor will say, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you may drink the wine/juice.*

*After everyone has received communion, Pastor will conclude communion by saying:*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



# SENDING SONG

ELW 881

## Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

## Thank You!

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us today. We sincerely pray that the service was inspiring, and comforting. If you find occasion to worship with us again, please know that we appreciate your presence. If you are looking for a home church, please let the pastor know by phone, email, or text. Wherever you go, may God be at your side and bring you peace and joy.



## Prayer Requests

Bob Neil, Hannah Callister (Rodney Braatz's mom), Kevin Illa, Kim Sather (Kayla Barrett's dad), Sandra Nicolai, Mary Ohmann, Jim & Ardell Olson (Jill Ballard's neighbors), Austin Burlage, Angela Kettner (Julie Felton's sister), Kou Thao (Nou Moua's Dad), Don Otte, Bill Richer, Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's mom), and Nicole Mies Anderson, Dureen Mies and her family.

*When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.*

## Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Sharon Kappedahl, Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Wayne Weidner.

## Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

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### **Events this Week:**

Bible Study - Tuesday Bible Study 9:30 am

Quilting - Tuesday 10:30am

Newsletter Deadline - Tuesday 11:30 am

Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Adult Bible Study - Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sunday Service - 10:00 pm

### **Announcements**

#### **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study**

St. Marks will be hosting a 6-week Adult Bible study on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm at the church April 23-May 28. We will be studying the book of Colossians. Each week we will look at a different part of the book of Colossians with a short video and discussion questions on how we can live out God's word. Please bring a bible and an open mind to learn and share. There is a weekly devotion that accompanies the series that we can have available but it is not necessary to complete in order to learn along with the group.



### **Congratulation Graduating Class of 2025**



**Katelyn Hare**



**Hunter Kriesel**



**JD Kuhn**

**Not Pictured:  
Rachel Motz**



**Jonathan Toledo**

## **Community Events**

### **Community Food Shelf**

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Tuesday 8:00 am to 9:30 am

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food.

### **College Student Food Shelf Invite**

The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf.

We want to help with your expenses during these years.

Please come when the Food Shelf is open or  
at 9 am before Church on Sunday or  
contact Beth Bester at (651) 246-9301

## **Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff**

Pastor	Lue Moua <b>Church:</b> (507) 263-9182 <b>Cell:</b> (651) 500-9890 <b>Email:</b> pastorluemoua@gmail.com
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Musician	Lisa Molitor <b>Email:</b> lisa.molitor@yahoo.com
President	Dan Kuhn
Vice President	Tyler Otte
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Kelly Tate Stephanie Krueger Lucinda Preston
Trustees	Luke Dubbels Robert Nivala

## **Saint Mark's Lutheran Church**

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**Website:** stmarksrandolph.com

**Facebook:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Instagram:** stmarksrandolph

**WELCA Facebook:** St. Mark's Randolph MN WELCA