



**Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



**WELCOME TO  
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

St. Mark's is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
We welcome you to our worship today & hope you will worship with us again soon!

Our worship service is also available online each Sunday at 10 AM as well.

To find us online, please visit our website, YouTube, Facebook:

<https://www.stmarkslutheran.us>  
<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchurchwauk6372/streams>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

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**April Mission of the Month**  
Debt Reduction / Simply Giving



Please refer to the April issue of the Messenger  
for further information regarding the mission of the month.



## Pastor Colin—Opening Message

### Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, saves, and sends us with love that lives forever.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

**Thanks be to God.**

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the One who turned water to wine and met a woman at the well with living water.

**Thanks be to God.**

For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken

places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed.**

God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation; our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation. Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched thanks to the risen Jesus, the Son of God.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Song Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

**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.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

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

**First Reading: 1 John 3:16-24**

A reading from 1 John.

*Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is

his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
 Hallelujah, Hallelujah

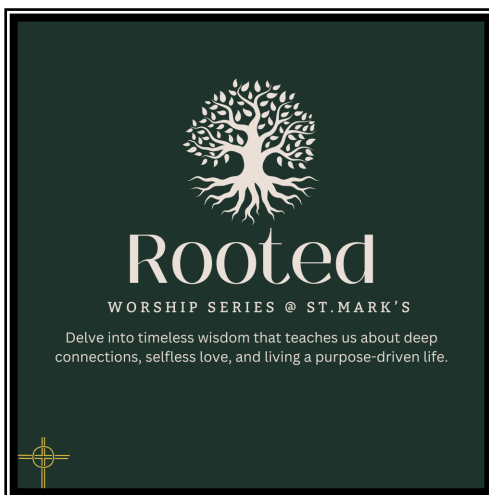
**Gospel: John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



### **Sermon Series Description**

Dive into our sermon series, "Rooted," as we explore what it means to live a life deeply anchored in Christ. Discover the essential teachings of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the True Vine, and learn how to cultivate a faith that is not only resilient but also rich in spiritual fruit. This series will guide you through the principles of sacrificial love, the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, and our collective mission as followers of Christ. Whether you are seeking to deepen your spiritual connections or find your calling within the faith community, "Rooted" offers the tools and inspiration needed to thrive in your spiritual journey.

### **Hymn of the Day - Birds**

Birds in the air, they don't worry  
 The sun's never scared that it won't rise  
 If all of creation depends on your goodness  
 Why oh why can't I?

Anxiety is such a human thing  
 But what do the creatures know about you?  
 They all know you're faithful and you're true  
 You'll do everything you said you would do  
 They all know you're lovely and you're just  
 I know these things but I must

Admit that I'm so human sometimes  
 Everything you've done for all of creation  
 You've done it in my life

Anxiety is such a human thing  
 What do the creatures know about you?  
 They all know you're faithful and you're true  
 You'll do everything you said you would do  
 They all know you're lovely and you're just  
 I know these things but I must

Admit that I'm so human sometimes  
 I know I'm so human sometimes  
 God, I'm just so human sometimes  
 Everything you've done for all of creation  
 You've done it in my life

### **Creed**

**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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Ever-Welcoming God,  
 Gather us into your fold whenever we stray from your ways and each other.  
 Empower our global church to worship and serve as equal partners, united in the gospel's work across the world.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Ever-Creating God,  
Sustain the health of our planet's biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, advocates, and all who steward the earth, that we may protect and cherish the world you have entrusted to us.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

God of Peace,  
Guide nations and communities to share resources, resolve conflicts, and honor the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Inspire leaders to wield power for the common good.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God,  
Shield the vulnerable—the young, the elderly, those without homes, victims of abuse, and all suffering from illness. Mobilize us to care actively for each other with empathy and action.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Listening God,  
Help us hear your voice amid distraction. Draw us nearer to those who are lonely and marginalized, that we might embody your love in community.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

Ancestral God,  
We give thanks for those who have nurtured our faith across generations. Strengthen us to live out the gospel's call today.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

In your loving hands,  
We entrust all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, confident in your enduring grace through Christ, our resurrected Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **Offeratory Song - Let My Heart Be Good Soil**



Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
 open to the seed of your word.  
 Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
 where love can grow and peace is understood.  
 When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
 When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
 Lord, let my heart be good soil.

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving / 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 our thanks and praise.**

### **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, 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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
 God of pow'r and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

### **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.**

### **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### **Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Song - You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat**

[Refrain]

You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
they know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,  
we follow and rejoice. [Refrain]

2 With joyful lips we sing to you  
our praise and gratitude  
that you should count us worthy, Lord,  
to share this heav'nly food. [Refrain]

3 Is not the cup we bless and share  
the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
our oneness in the Lord? [Refrain]

4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell. [Refrain]

5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity. [Refrain]

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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.**

## Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Song: Shall Not Want

Will You be my light, when I cannot see?  
 And when I can't take another step  
 Lord, would You carry me?  
 And when I've lost my fight, will You be my strength?  
 Will You set me a table in the presence of my enemies?

I shall not want, I shall not want  
 Oh, my soul's got a shepherd in the valley and I shall not want  
 I shall not want, I shall not want  
 'Cause my cup's running over, running over and I shall not want

And I will lift my eyes to where my help comes from  
 And I won't be afraid of the shadow  
 'Cause I've seen the sun  
 No, I will not stop, when the way gets hard  
 'Cause the green only grows in the valley  
 And that's where You are

I shall not want, I shall not want  
 Oh, my soul's got a shepherd in the valley and I shall not want  
 I shall not want, I shall not want  
 'Cause my cup's running over, running over and I shall not want

I've got everything that I need  
 Your goodness and Your mercy  
 I've got everything that I need  
 Your goodness and Your mercy  
 I've got everything that I need  
 Your goodness and Your mercy



I've got goodness and I've got mercy  
 Hallelu, glory hallelujah  
 I've got goodness and I've got mercy  
 halleu, glory hallelujah

I've got goodness and I've got mercy  
 hallelu, glory hallelujah  
 The Good Shepherd leads me to the waters  
 Hallelu, glory hallelujah

And He anoints me, anoints me with His oil  
 hallelu, glory hallelujah  
 now my cup is  
 my cup is running over  
 hallelu, glory hallelujah

I won't fear no, fear no evil  
 hallelu, glory hallelujah  
 I will dwell in His house forever  
 hallelu, glory hallelujah

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **Please join us after worship for our Spring Congregational Meeting**

If you have not done so in the past year, please fill out a communion registration card. This card, along with a contribution of record, will allow you to vote at the meeting.



### Altar Flowers Presented By:

Joanie Ryan in memory of the 2nd anniversary  
of her dad's (Richard Bogdala) passing.



Altar flowers for Sunday worship can be purchased for \$39.95 in memory or honor of loved ones. If you are interested, please refer to the sign up sheet in the narthex.

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### *Announcements & Events*

#### **Saturday, April 27th**

90th Birthday Celebration for Lucille Tolonen - hosted by Lucille's Family.  
11:30 AM @ St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

In lieu of gifts, donations can be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

#### **Pasty**

If you missed out on ordering, we have a few available for purchase.

We have 3 regular and 4 pizza. The pasties are \$9 each.

Please make checks payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

If paying by cash, exact change is appreciated  
as we won't be able to make change.

*Please feel free to join the following small groups:*

**Women of St. Mark's** - 1st Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

**Yarns of Compassion** - 3rd Monday of the month @ 7 PM.

**Reflections in the Spirit** - 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7 PM.

**Reflections of the Seasons** - 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 12 PM

**Zoom Weekly Bible Study** - Wednesday Night @ 7 PM

**Gather Bible Study** - 2nd Friday of the month @ 7 PM.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting** - Fri. Night @ 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

**Come as You Are, Whoever You Are**

**Everyone is welcome at St. Mark’s, no matter what you have done, what has been done to you, what darkness or struggles you have faced, and regardless of whether you have been marginalized by society or denied involvement by other churches.**

**All are worthy of God’s love and grace. We celebrate diversity, and seek to be inclusive of every race, ethnicity, faith background, age, economic status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental ability, or anything else that divides us.**

**Christ’s church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But it is our place to love all our neighbors, aid the less fortunate, and to be a voice on their behalf.**

**Welcome!**

**“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7**

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If you’d like more information about St. Mark’s, please scan the St. Mark’s Website QRC code below.

If you’d like to receive emails from St. Mark’s or your contact information needs to be updated, please scan the Contact Form QRC below. Or, fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate.

**St. Mark’s Member/Visitor Information Card**  
**Please provide the following information:**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



St. Mark’s Website

Contact Form