



Sunday, October 6, 2024

Blessing of the Animals

[4th October: feast day of St Francis; World Animal Day]



**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/channel/UCCSZGBTjTxsR3QcZ9YX0xNw>
- <https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

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**Mission of the Month
Social Justice / Prison Ministry**

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.” - Matthew 25:36



Chicagoland Prison Outreach exists to bring the love of Christ to currently or previously incarcerated men and women and their families throughout the Chicagoland region.

To provide support and guidance to these hurting people, we provide a range of Christian worship services, discipleship classes, individual counseling, vocational training and job preparation services.

Please refer to the September-December issue of the Messenger for further information regarding the mission of the month.



Gathering

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

Pastor Colin Cranmer - Opening Message

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

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 and the blessings of all God's creatures.

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. You also created the animals, each according to its kind, and saw that they were good.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark. 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, for the animals that bring joy and companionship into our lives, and above all, we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, bless the animals that share our lives, and renew our hearts 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.

Gathering Song: All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (ELW 835)

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
 Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
 sing, sister moon and stars of night:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
 you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Dear sister water, useful, clear,
 make music for your Lord to hear:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

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

First Reading: Genesis 1:20–25

A reading from Genesis.

The New Revised Standard Version

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 - Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

Sermon Series Description

“Sacred Pathways: Embracing Our Unique Journeys with God”
Caregivers [Blessing of the Pets]

Introduction: In the grand tapestry of faith, there's no one-size-fits-all. Every believer's journey to connect with God is unique, colored by personal experiences, inclinations, and passions. Inspired by the insights from the book "Sacred Pathways," by Gary Thomas, this sermon series delves into the diverse avenues through which we, as believers, resonate with and respond to God's call. By understanding these pathways, we aim to foster an atmosphere of respect, celebrate our differences, and deepen our personal walk with God.

Hymn of the Day: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (W&P 95)

1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3 O Master, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Blessing of the Pets

Blessing of the Animals—Psalm 148: 1-5, 7-13

All: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the LORD in the heights.

Women: Praise the LORD, all you holy angels; praise the LORD, all heavenly host.

Children: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise the LORD, all you shining stars.

Animal Lovers: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Men: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created.

Pastor: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

ALL: Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, obeying God's will; Animals: Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

ALL: Young men and women, old and young together. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for the name of the LORD only is exalted, and the splendor of the LORD is over earth and heav-en. Hallelujah!

Pastor: God created you and declared you good. God gave you to us to share our life as a faith-ful companion and friend. May God bless you with a life of joy and curiosity, interest and enthusiasm, and a life of blessing to all whose lives you touch, through + Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing:

Let us pray.

Most high, almighty Lord, our Creator, yours are the praise, the glory, the honor, and all blessings! To you alone, the Giver of life, do all things belong.

Be praised, O Lord, for the gift of animals that grace our lives. In their playful antics and gentle moments, we glimpse the joy and wonder of Your creation. May we remember and thank You every time our pets bring a smile to our face or comfort to our hearts.

Grant us the wisdom and will, O God, to care for these creatures as they deserve: to provide for their needs, to treat them with kindness, and to ensure their health and happiness.

For in caring for them, we honor You, and in their joy, we find our own. Lead us all, every creature great and small, into the promise of your eternal kingdom, where love reigns and joy knows no end.

In Your magnificent name, we pray. Amen.

Pet Blessing

Gracious God, Creator of all living beings, we ask for Your blessing upon (pet name). May they be blessed with health and energy, may the days they share with their caregivers be filled with joy and love, and watch over them as they watch over us for all the days of their life Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster: relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died Bring us all to eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Announcements

Offering Song - As the Deer

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.
 You alone are my strength, my shield;
 To You alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are the king.
 I love you more than any other so much more than anything.
 You alone are my strength, my shield;
 To You alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

I want you more than gold or silver only you can satisfy.
 You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.
 You alone are my strength, my shield;
 To You alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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 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 (ELW p. 191)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us,
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us,
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
 Grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: Your Hands

I have unanswered prayers
 I have trouble I wish wasn't there
 And I have asked a thousand ways
 That you would take my pain away
 You would take my pain away
 I am trying to understand
 How to walk this weary land
 Make straight the paths that crookedly lie
 Oh Lord, before these feet of mine
 Oh Lord, before these feet of mine

When my world is shaking
 Heaven stands
 When my heart is breaking

I never leave your hands

When you walked upon the earth
 You healed the broken, lost, and hurt
 I know you hate to see me cry
 One day you will set all things right
 Yeah, one day you will set all things right

When my world is shaking
 Heaven stands
 When my heart is breaking
 I never leave your hands

Your hands

Your hands that shape the world
 Are holding me, they hold me still
 Your hands that shape the world
 Are holding me, they hold me still

When my world is shaking
 Heaven stands
 When my heart is breaking
 I never leave you when
 When my world is shaking
 Heaven stands
 When my heart is breaking
 I never leave
 I never leave your hands

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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

Sending Song: House of the Lord

We worship the God who was
 We worship the God who is
 We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors
 He parted the raging sea
 My God, He holds the victory

There's joy in the house of the Lord
 There's joy in the house of the Lord today
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
 Our God is surely in this place
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise
 we shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals
 We sing to the God who saves
 We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross
 Then He rose up from that grave
 My God's still rolling stones away
 There's joy in the house of the Lord
 There's joy in the house of the Lord today

And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise
 There's joy in the house of the Lord
 Our God is surely in this place
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise

We were the beggars
 Now we're royalty
 We were the prisoners
 Now we're running free
 We are forgiven, accepted
 Redeemed by His grace
 Let the house of the Lord sing praise

'Cause we were the beggars
 Now we're royalty
 We were the prisoners
 Now we're running free
 We are forgiven, accepted
 Redeemed by His grace
 Let the house of the Lord sing praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
 There's joy in the house of the Lord today
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise
 There's joy in the house of the Lord

Our God is surely in this place
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
 There's joy in the house of the Lord today
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise
 There's joy in the house of the Lord

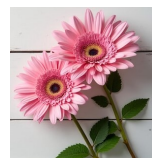
Our God is surely in this place
 And we won't be quiet
 We shout out Your praise
 We shout out Your praise
 There is joy in the house, there is joy in the house today
 We shout out Your praise

Dismissal

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



Altar Flowers Presented By: Paul & Genie Durand
 In honor of Chris & Lynn Schroetter's Anniversary.



Announcements & Events

Sunday, October 13th

Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
New Member Class, Part 2 after worship

Wednesday, October 16th

Youth & Family Trip to Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm @ 5:30 PM

Saturday, October 19th

Learn to make Pulla Bread with the Women of St. Mark's
7 AM - late afternoon.
Helpers time can be varied.

Sunday, October 20th

Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
Trunk or Treat & Pulla Bake Sale after worship
Sign up sheets are available in the narthex

Sunday, October 27th

Reformation Sunday (wear red to worship)
Lutheran 101 - Basics of Lutheranism. Great series, invite a friend!!
Welcome New Members!

Sunday, November 3rd

All Saints Sunday

Thursday, November 7th

15th Annual Chili Supper
Benefit Fundraiser for COOL Food Pantry
Stay tuned for additional details...

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.

Zoom Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday Night @ 7 PM

Gather Bible Study - 2nd Friday of the month @ 5:30 PM.

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

For those visiting St Mark's today, if you would like more information,
please check out our web page at: StMarksLutheran.us

Or, visit us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranWaukegan/>

Services are also available online each Sunday at 10 AM.

[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 - Friday Night @ 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Reminders

Wednesday, October 4th - Youth Field Trip to Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm! It's that time of year again; it is time to visit Kroll's Fall Harvest Farm! Join us on Wednesday, October 4th @ 5:30 PM for an evening of fun. Kroll's offers a corn maze, hay rides, pumpkins & gourds, a petting zoo, concessions, and a gift shop

Sunday, October 15th - Blessing of the Finnish Bible

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



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

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

If you'd like more information about St. Mark's,
please scan the 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 QRC below. Or, fill out this form
and drop it in the offering plate.



St. Mark's Website



Contact Form