

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
July 4 and 5, 2026**

Liturgy at SAINT MARK'S



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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SETTING: Now the Feast

A time of silence is kept in preparation for worship. People may move about the worship space at any time to light candles at the prayer stations in the front or to write prayer petitions on the cards provided, placing them in the prayer walls at the back. Please silence cell phones.

INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

PRELUDE

Festal March

Powell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy,
**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that tempts us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of † Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.
Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross at the entrance of the nave.

GATHERING SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

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.

KYRIE

In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Let us pray to the **Lord,** have mer - cy,
Congregation: **Christ,** have mer - cy, **Lord,** have
mer - - - cy.

For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all . . .(Refrain)

For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to
live your Word . . .(Refrain)

Assistant: Help, save and de - fend us O God.
Congregation: A - - - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for
ev - er - more!

Verse 1

Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To Refrain

Verse 2

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er.

To Refrain

For God has come to dwell with us,
 to make us peo - ple of God; to make
 all things new. *To Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised.

You have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Grant that we may believe in you,

call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want,

it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not

dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. “For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Is My Song

ELW 887

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Gathering God, pour out your Spirit on the church you have called from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give the spirit of wisdom to those whom we have entrusted with authority, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated or detained; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we silently name before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for calling the church to reform; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Be with the family of Chuck Karschney at the time of his death. With them and all the saints of every tribe and nation, lead us into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you." The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also send your offering by mail or go to our website, www.stmarks-spokane.org, and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 to receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.



The table is set.


The assembly stands.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (Saturday night only sings first verse.)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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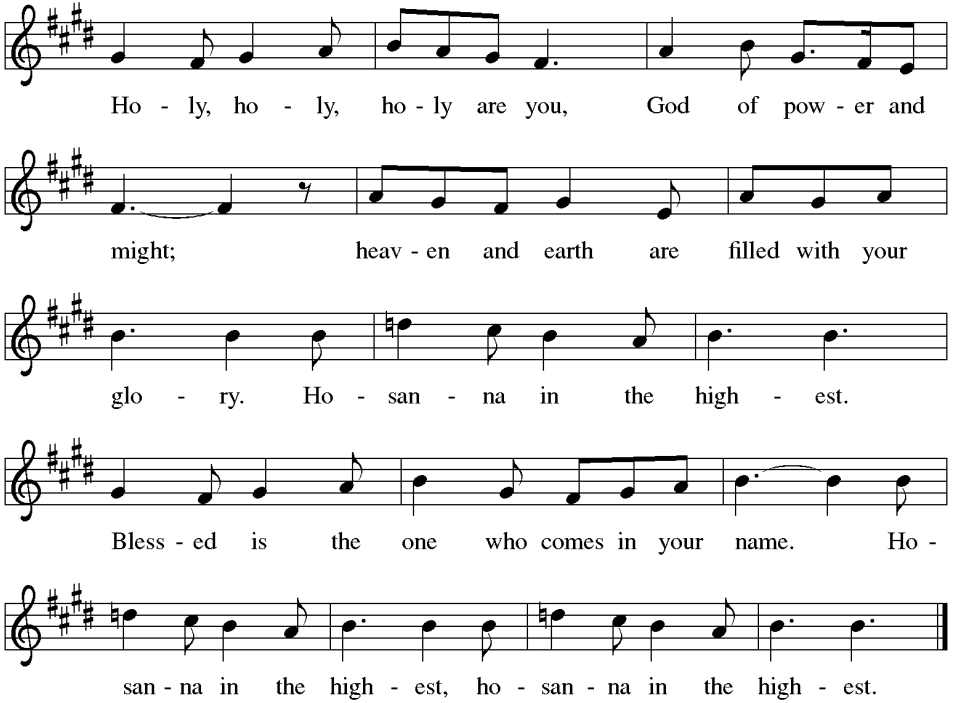
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PREFACE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving.

The assembly joins the angels' song.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving including praise for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise.

During the thanksgiving, the assembly is invited to respond:
Chris has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
Taste and know that God is good to all.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



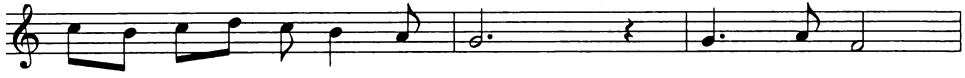
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



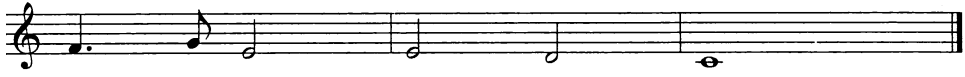
world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ, our Host, welcomes all to the table—where we feast on his promise of forgiveness and life in the bread and wine. Those wishing to receive communion come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you desire a gluten-free option, please take a wafer from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. Kneel or stand at the rail, filling in from the center aisle to the sides. A communion minister will offer you bread, and you may choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty glass in the tray located at a side aisle before returning to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. Simply let an usher know.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
*and each person may respond: **Amen.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken and beautiful world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us.
Amen.

SENDING

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

Within the sending rite of the service, this affirmation may be made by the whole assembly. The presiding minister addresses those affirming Christian vocation in civic life.

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved.
You have received the gift of Christian vocation,
a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life,
your relationships and communities,
your work and your rest.

Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism,
sustained by grace to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

I ask you, therefore:

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ,
in gratitude to God and in service to others?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life,
nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action,
commending what is true and right,
renouncing what is unjust and harmful,
and working to mend what is flawed?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING

The assembly stands.

The Author of life,
the Word of salvation,
the Breath of new birth,
✠ one God, bless you
and equip you for living and serving,
today and every day.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live out your freedom in Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jubilate Deo

Loret

• **Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** •
316 E 24th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203
509-747-6677
stmarks-spokane.org

Worship attendance cards are located in the pews.
After listing all attendees (members and visitors) the card may be placed in
the offering plate.

ST. MARK'S STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pastors | Edwin Weber |
| | Gretchen Olson |
| Faith Formation Minister | Kendra Chapman |
| Parish Administrator | Jane Somers |
| Communication Coordinator | Loris Stupel |
| Office Coordinator | Susan Hagen |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Gina Bloom |
| Pastoral Assistant/Visitation | Tom Fallquist |
| Youth Program Leaders | Calvin Moore |
| | Rachel Peterson |
| Live Stream/Sound Coordinator | Randy Darst |
| Director of Music/Organ | Carol Miyamoto |
| Director of Music/Choral | Ann Benson |
| Sexton | Gib Dominguez |

Congregation Council

Council President: Ira Gardner, Jr.
Council Members: Ben Baker, Kate Bassett, Patti Berg, Sue
Connelly, Janet Farness, Mary Hoenecke, Theron Miller, Michelle
Phelan, Susan Pine, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers.

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