

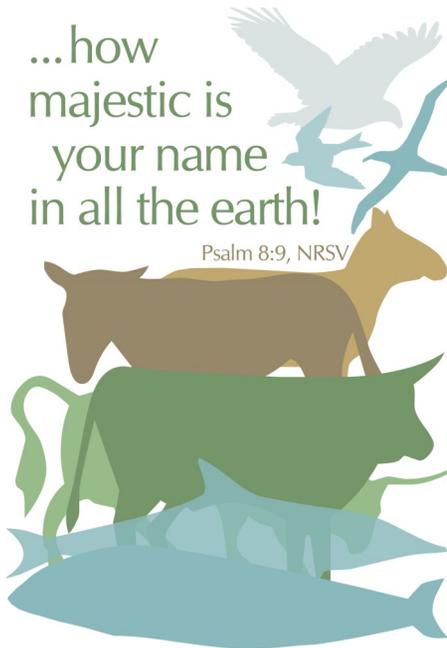


Welcome to St. Mark's! We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person —

questions, complexities and all. We especially welcome those who are worshiping with us for the first time and invite you to join us again.

...how
majestic is
your name
in all the earth!

Psalm 8:9, NRSV



*CONGREGATION STANDS

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

454 Fieldstone Road Mooresville, North Carolina

Church Office Phone 704-664-5474

Pastor: Rev. Dave Keck

Associate Pastor: Rev. Vern Kinard

Director of Music: Robbie Pearson

Organist: Priscilla Abraham

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	APRIL 18, 2021 - 8:30, 10:00 & 11:15 AM
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Celebrating "Earth Day" / Stewardship of Creation / Day of the Creation (April 22)
This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water from Lake Norman is poured into the font

Blessed are you O Lord our God, creator of the universe, and from whom all blessings flow.

We thank you God for water around us from our conception to birth, the water within us and that which quenches our thirst, and for the waters in which we wash and play each and every day. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of holy baptism, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Wash us anew and clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN ELW 456 "Baptized in Water"

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we gather in your name to worship in this sanctuary called Earth, a planet filled with your presence, blowing through the forests, shining on the land, shimmering in the waters, hiding in the wilderness. We give thanks to God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and Earth for your walk on Earth, including your walking on the water; for pouring out your blessings through bread and wine, fruit and meat, vegetables and nuts and other good gifts of the Earth! We thank you for your incarnational washing in a river, for your using mud to heal a blind man, for your crucifixion on a tree, and then resurrection from a tomb that had been sealed with a large stone. We join this day with all your creatures with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, to praise you Lord God of all creation through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN 876 *“Let the Whole Creation Cry”*

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory to the Lord on high!”

Heav’n and earth, awake and sing, “Praise to our almighty king!”

Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;

Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

PSALM 8

¹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ~ Pastor Vern

HYMN ELW 733 “Great is Thy Faithfulness” vs. 2

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above**

Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy Faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I
see;**

All I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.”³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Hymn 733 “Great is Thy Faithfulness” vs. 3

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy Faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I
see;**

All I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

SERMON ~ Pastor Dave

HYMN ELW 824 “*This is My Father’s World* “

**This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their make’s praise.
This is my Father’s world; he shines in all that’s fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father’s world; oh, let me not forget
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. We lift places in our surrounding area including Lake Norman, Dye Creek, Reed Creek and Stumpy Creek; we pray for North Carolina’s state parks and our National Parks too – all those who work and serve at the parks as well as all the wildlife in the water, on land, and in the air. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially Bev, Milbert, Guil, Jady, Joan, Dan, Gail, and Judy . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in
service to all your beloved creation; for the sake of your beloved Child,
Jesus Christ. Amen.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION AT OUR SEATS

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 838 "*Beautiful Savior*" vs. 1-3

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

**Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!



Welcome
To St. Mark's

We welcome you if you are single, married, divorced, gay, wealthy, poor, black, brown, yellow or white. We welcome crying newborns, squirming children and frazzled moms and dads. You are welcome if you sing like an opera star or can't carry a tune in a bucket, like some of us. You are welcome here if you use a wheelchair, walker, or scooter to assist your mobility. You are welcome here because the Spirit of the Lord called you and helped guide you here today, along with the rest of us. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Martin Luther, haven't been in church since little Joey's baptism, or if you're "just browsing." We welcome you if you are over 60, even if you haven't grown up yet, or if you are a teenager and growing up too fast. We welcome starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians and junk food junkies. You are welcome if you are in recovery or still struggling with your addiction. We welcome you if you have been having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion." We've been there too. If you are left-wing, right-wing or no wing at all, you are welcome here. If you are visiting Grandma and Grandpa and they made you come to church, welcome! Likewise, if you are in town to visit a child, grandchild or friend, you are welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church because we are a place of saints and sinners of all kinds who are here by the grace of God.

