



*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.

EARLY SERV  
DRAFT 1

APRIL 25



\*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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 25, 2021 - 8:30 & 10 AM**

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Let us pray: Blessed are you O Lord our God, creator of the universe through whom all things come to be. On this day of Commemoration of Mark the Evangelist, April 25, we give thanks and praise to you Lord God for both the gospel according to Mark and for this gospel-centered congregation. Since 1908 your Holy Spirit has led and blessed this body of Christ in worship, education, and service.

### **Thanks be to God for St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church!**

We pray O Lord that this church continues to be a blessing to you and to our community through your Holy Spirit and our very lives of faith and service. We give thanks for all the many faithful people who have been part of St. Mark's – all those who have gathered to praise you; to teach and to learn; to fellowship and eat; to be married or buried; to serve and to share; to be cared for by preschool teachers and scout leaders; all those who have given time, dollars, and energy to and through the ministries of St. Mark's.

### **Thanks be to God!**

Lord God, you have also enriched your holy church throughout the ages with Mark's proclamation of the gospel. Give us grace again this day to believe firmly in the good news of our salvation, and to proclaim the amazing love of God through Jesus Christ, as Saint Mark the evangelist did. In Jesus' name we gather and pray.

**Amen.**

**HYMN ELW 420, “By All Your Saints”, Vs. 1, Vs. 10 Mark Evangelist, Vs Last Sing to Tune KUORTANE, ELW 421**

By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,  
your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!  
For you arose victorious that they might wear the crown  
and share the light of glory reflected from your throne.

For Mark, O Lord, we praise you, whose fainting heart, made strong,  
poured forth the faithful gospel to animate our song.  
May we, in all our weakness, receive your pow'r divine,  
and all, as fruitful branches, grow strong in you, the vine.

Give praise to God Almighty, *and worship God the Son,*  
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,  
till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,  
and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.; hymnal version, sts. 4, 9, 13, 16, 18; Text: sts. 4, 9 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and sts. 13, 16, 18 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter, verses 1, 14-15.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The Gospel of the Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Since Jesus’ first words in the Gospel according to Mark include “repent,” let us repent and confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Hear the good news! The kingdom of God has come near! 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.**

## HYMN ELW 513, “Listen, God is Calling”

### **Refrain**

*Solo:* Listen,

*All:* listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

*Repeat Refrain*

### **Verse 1**

*Solo:* Jesus gave his mandate:

*All:* share the good news

*Solo:* that he came to save us

*All:* and set us free. *Refrain*

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922; Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



## FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

<sup>5</sup>The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### PSALM 23 (*prayed together in unison*)

<sup>1</sup>**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>**You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.**

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter. (John 10:11-18)

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus said: <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>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

**SOLO** – Amy Elkin - "*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*" – Setting by John Ness Beck,  
Transcribed by Craig Courtney © 1985, 1991 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

## APOSTLES' 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

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.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need *especially* Dovie, Bev, Milbert, Guil, Jady, Jennifer, Joan, Dan, Gail and Judy . Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help St. Mark's Lutheran Church in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities this Easter season, and in the midst of a pandemic, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you, especially the evangelist Mark, and others we remember today. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. 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 who has taught us to pray,

**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**

## **BENEDICTION**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☐ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN 385**, Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!, Vs. 1, 4

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!  
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.; Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns *Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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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.