



Sunday May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. Mark Lutheran Church

1515 S. Harris Rd.

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

stmarkypsi.com

PRELUDE: Organist Dolly Collins

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Virtual Coffee Hour follows the service today from 11:15-11:45AM. Login with this link or click the link on our website. <https://meet.google.com/oforjca-bmm>

- A reminder for why we are delaying communion during the pandemic: Communion is a gift from God. Because we cannot all be together as an assembly at this time, we are not participating in receiving communion. On a normal Sunday our homebound members could request a communion visit at any time, but because of the pandemic we are not able to commune with our members who are not privileged to have internet access. Instead we will continue to remember God's gift of baptism because this is something our folks can do even if they're not watching with us. Get your bowl of water and your bulletin (found at stmarkypsi.com) to follow along. Let's get started.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

adapted and used with permission © Pr. Rebecca Ajer Frantz

Holy God, source of living water, **all life flows out from you.**

In this time of uncertainty, with a future unknown, let us give thanks to our God who is always with us.

In the days of chaos, Your voice moved over the water and life sprang forth.

In the days of the flood, You kept Noah and his family safe from harm.

In the days of fleeing Egypt, You separated the sea so your people could pass.

In the days of wandering in the wilderness, You made water flow from a rock.

Holy God, source of living water, **all life flows out from you.**

We praise you for the gift of baptism that binds us to one another and to you. We are united through these waters, the waters that run from this church, through our homes, through your beautiful creation.

Holy God, source of living water, **all life flows out from you.**

All are invited to play with water in a bowl.

As we play with this precious water, remind us of who we are: your beloved children.

Help us see each person as a member of your body.

Ease our anxieties and strengthen our resolve to care for each other.

Deepen our faith.

All make the mark of the cross with the water on the forehead.

Holy God, source of living water, **all life flows out from you. Amen.**

LITANY FOR MOTHERS:

To those who gave birth this year – **we celebrate with you**

To those who lost a child this year through death, miscarriage, failed adoptions or running away –**we mourn with you**

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day wearing a badge of food stains–**we appreciate you**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility with pain and disappointment—**we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is**

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms–**we need you**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children–**we celebrate with you**

To those who are distant from your children, who are praying for reconciliation –**we pray with you**

To those who lost their mothers this year–**we grieve with you**

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your mother–**we acknowledge your experience**

To those who have chosen not to be mothers and to those who have aborted children–**we remember you on this day**

To those who wanted to mother your own children–**we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be**

To those who stepparent–**we walk with you on these complex paths. We are better for having you in our midst.**

To those who envisioned loving on your grandchildren, yet that dream has not come to be–**we grieve with you**

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year–**we grieve and rejoice with you**

To those who placed children up for adoption–**we commend you for your selflessness and we remember with you**

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprised–**we anticipate with you**

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart. We see you. We remember you.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413
 Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

- ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.
- ²Incline your | ear to me;
make haste to de- | liver me.
- ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
- ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,
for you are my tow- | er of strength.
- ⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.
- ¹⁵My times are | in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.
- ¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

SERMON: Pastor Sean Ewbank of the Southeast Michigan Synod Office, and Vicar Anna Taylor-McCants

SERMON HYMN: Rock of My Salvation

Copyright CCLI

NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens (*especially Frances, Miriam, Millie and Jim, Rick, and Kurt*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, we know that Black Lives Matter to you. Your child Jesus was lynched at the hands of the state with the approval of the religious authorities. We lift up today especially Ahmaud Arbery, the runner who was recently murdered in Georgia, and Sean Reed. Be with their families and communities who are in mourning. Empower us to show solidarity with the crucified ones in our midst; to dismantle individual biases and systemic inequalities, and to pursue with urgency an end to racialized violence. Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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 your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and 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, and the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERING: Send Us Out

Copyright CCLI

Thank you for continuing to give your offering to the work God is doing through St. Mark Lutheran Church. You can give by mailing your gift directly to the church. You can also give your gift by going online to www.stmarkypsi.com.

BLESSING and SHARING OF THE PEACE:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace and share a sign of that peace with those you love. Hug your partner or your child.

Call a friend. Wave at your neighbor walking their dog.

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Share that good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING SONG: God Be with You Till We Meet Again (verse 3 only)

See below

REMEMBER TO JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR FROM 11:15-11:45AM

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,