

"He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

~ Mark 4:40-41

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 23, 2024 420 Beaver St., PO Box 411 Mars, PA 16046-0411 www.stjohnchurchmars.org Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.
All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

A *playroom* is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator. As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

*GATHERING SONG How Marvelous God's Greatness (ELW 830)



***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. In God's goodness, we are free to claim the gift of God's mercy: we are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Job 38:1-11

A reading from Job.

¹The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? ⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?— ⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?" The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32



- Give thanks to God, our gracious Lord, Whose mercy ever stands;
 Proclaim that God has brought us safe From our oppressors' hands.
- 2. From every land the Lord our God Has gathered, called us out,

From farthest east and from the west, The north and from the south.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

6. God stilled the storm to whispering, Its waves fell quietly;Then they were glad; God brought them to The port where they would be.

7. Let them give thanks for God's great love, The wonders God displays;Let congregations, councils all, Exalt God with their praise.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Al - le - lu ia, al le lu ia. _ _ _ Al - le - lu ia, al lu ia. le ----Repeat alleluia 20 O

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:35-41

The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

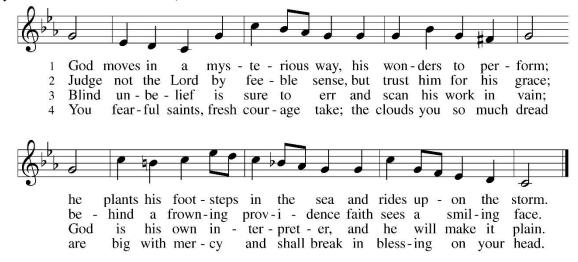
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY God Moves in a Mysterious Way (LBW 483)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. *A brief silence*.

Equip your faithful people to approach this world with a sense of wonder. Make your church a safe place to explore big questions, troubling doubts, and honest laments. Humble our hearts to repent of the ways that communities of faith have inflicted pain or trauma. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke creation into order from the chaos of the swirling deep. May your name be praised by rivers and seas, wetlands and waterfalls. Secure clean water for all people and protect water sources from contamination or exploitation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Amid whirlwinds of division, violence, and conflict, remind us again that you are as steadfast as the foundations of the earth. Rejuvenate peacemakers, advocates, and community organizers when they feel weary in their work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Deliver your people from their distress, O God. We lift before you all who are sick or struggling especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Grant consolation and peace to all who live with chronic, terminal, or persistent illness. In times of affliction or hardship, sustain us in faith. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Enfold all travelers with your protection. Bless the comings and goings of this assembly as we travel for leisure or for work. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way and let community members return to us with celebration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation for all the redeemed of the Lord. Joined together with the great cloud of witnesses, we give thanks for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of grace, you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We lift now the prayers that are on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

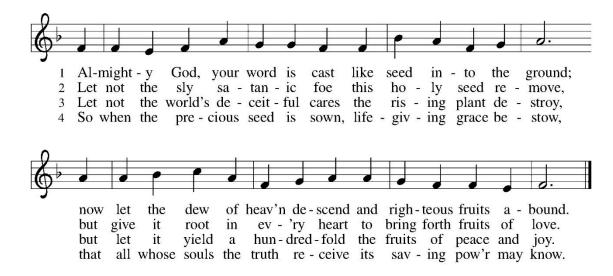
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast (ELW 516)

Rise on 4th verse



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right and salutary

that we should at all times and in all places

offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,

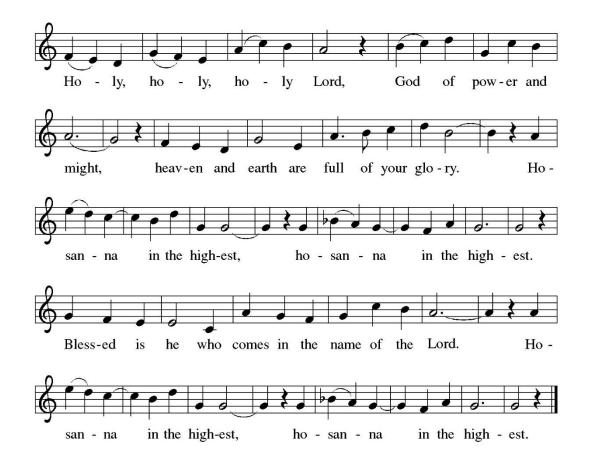
through Christ our Lord;

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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

To explain God's love, to show it and share it, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his good command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be made holy, and have our place with all your saints.

All blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

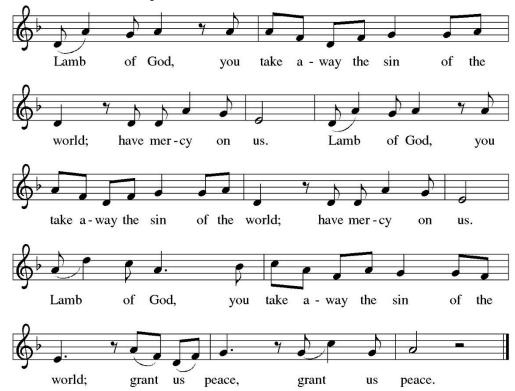
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

***BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you + now and to the end of the age. Amen.



*DISMISSAL

[Jesus said,] "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's altar flowers are from Dave & Cindy Knauff in gratitude for summer sunshine.

Assisting in worship today: Assisting Minister: Denise Hager Acolyte: Anna K Ushers: Cardinal Family Greeters: Cardinal Family Offering: Jules K & Abby C Attendance last week: 52 + 5 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

As the disciples set out together in the boat with the sleeping Jesus, a great windstorm arose so that the boat became swamped. As we set out in mission together in the ship of Christ's church, how many storms arise! The elements of chaos still seem to wreak havoc in our lives, communities, and in the church—and we become terrified. Though Christ is present the disciples and we ourselves begin to doubt his care and power: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" His presence seems far too weak to help us, though it is exactly in this vulnerable weakness that Christ shows his almighty power. Jesus wakes at the disciples' cries and rebukes the wind and waves—they are no match for his command. The terrifying calm

that follows demonstrates his divine power over all the chaos that continually threatens us. And we find ourselves awe-struck before the living God who has met us in our weakness and yet overcome it. The Christ who sleeps in the boat is the same Christ who hangs on the cross, seemingly helpless. Yet the helpless one is none other than the all-powerful Lord God. "Who then is this?" but the Lord of all! The God who in the beginning brought order to the chaotic face of the deep now in Christ brings peace as we face the storm. So why are we afraid? Have we still no faith in this helpless Lord who is our only help?

Today's Music

How Marvelous God's Greatness. Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848-1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879-1961, alt.

Music: Koralpsalmboken, Stockholm, 1697. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Now the Feast and Celebration. Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way. Text: William Cowper, 1731-1800, alt., Music: Tans'ur, Compleat Melody, 1734. Public Domain.

Psalm 107. Text: The New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: DUNDEE, Psalter, Edinburgh, 1615, Public Domain.

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast. Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt., Music: J. Day, Psalter, 1562. Public Domain.

Jesus, Savior Pilot, Pilot Me. Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888, Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875. Public Domain.

Wait for the Lord. Music: Taizé Community, Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994. GIA Publications, Inc..

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me. Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship,

Music: Friedrich Silcher, 1789-1860. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

Lamentations 3:22-33 Great is the Lord's faithfulness Psalm 30 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus Mark 5:21-43 Christ healing a woman and Jairus' daughter