



***Sunday May 17, 2020***

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

**1515 S. Harris Rd.**

**Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

**[stmarkypsi.com](http://stmarkypsi.com)**

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](http://stmarkypsi.com)) to follow along. Let's get started.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

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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.**

OPENING SONG: We Are a Chosen People of God

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

*Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)*

<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**  
<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**  
<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.  
<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**  
<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;  
<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**  
<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know

him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Vicar Anna Taylor-McCants

SERMON HYMN: Voice of the Soul

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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.*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures (*especially the water sources in Flint, Michigan*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (*especially Frances, Miriam, Millie and Jim, and Rick*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us (*especially Jean and her family*). Unite us forever in your final victory over death. 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:**

*Two versions of this prayer are listed below.*

And now, as our Lord Jesus taught us, let us pray to God in Heaven using whatever translation and interpretation is most authentic to your relationship with the One who created you...

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

Our Father/Mother/Parent 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.

OFFERING: Everybody's Got Something to Offer

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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,