

Messiah Lutheran Church

Wednesday Worship

July 10, 2024 7:00PM

I SING because I'm happy,

I SING because I'm free,

For HIS eye is on the sparrow...



...and I know HE watches me.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?

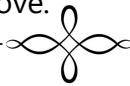
Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

Luke 12:6

A Walk Through The Gospel of Mark-Each Wednesday we focus on Mark's writings and witness the life of Jesus on earth; how He impacted His followers, and those who came into contact with Him. See page 11 for more information about this Gospel.

Tonight our worship centers around God's promise to never leave or forsake us. How easy it is to become anxious when storms arise and things go differently than we had hoped. We worry about ourselves and our loved ones and experience everyday anxieties and big cosmic ones too. Jesus invites us to let anxiety be. Concerning the things most of us worry about—like food, clothing, provisions—Jesus observes that just as the birds, the lilies, and the grass are well-provided for, we will be taken care of as well. The adventure of life is one of faith: entrusting ourselves to the care of God, seeking first God's reign, and experiencing the rich provision enjoyed by all of creation as a gift.

As you enter into worship, let go of all those things that have a hold on your heart and mind that are causing you anxiety or worry. Bask in the holiness of His presence in this Sanctuary and experience His peace and love.



THE PRELUDE

i WE GREET ONE ANOTHER IN PEACE

THE OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" LSB 656

A mighty Fortress is our God, a trusty Shield and Weapon
He helps us free from every need, that hath us now o'ertaken
The old evil foe, now means deadly woe
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight, on earth is not his equal.

Though devils all the world should fill all eager to devour us
We tremble not, we fear no ill, they shall not overpower us
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will
He can harm us none, he's judged the deed is done, one little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain, nor any thanks have for it
He's by our side upon the plain, with His good gifts and Spirit
And take they our life, goods, fame, child and wife, let these all be gone
They yet have nothing won, the Kingdom ours remaineth.

THE INVOCATION

P We begin our worship this evening in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

C Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

P Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

C For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

THE CONFESSION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

P Though God invites us to speak with Him in prayer, we have ignored His invitation. We may be tempted to choose complaining and worrying over conversing with God. We may be tempted to listen to ourselves and the world instead of to God's Word. We turn to God's infinite mercy and ask for His forgiveness. You are now invited to kneel.

J **C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not always been proud to bear Your name. We have ignored You and the gift of prayer and conversation with You. At times, we crumble in the face of the trials that come our way. We allow worries and anxieties to crowd out Your caring presence. Keep us in Your name, which You have given us in Baptism, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake.**

P Although we have sinned, God still surrounds us with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide our hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn our thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, so let go of all anxiety and worry in your life. With this good news I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

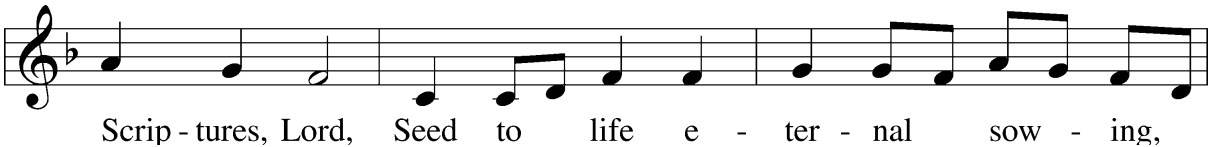
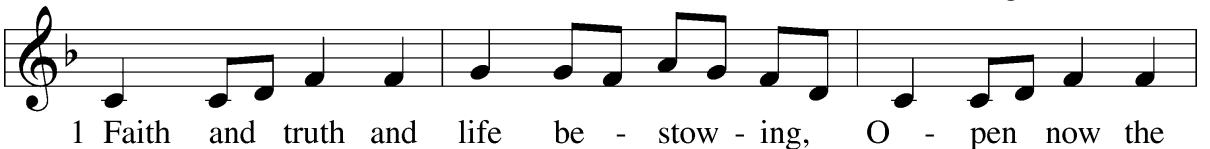
C **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

P Please be seated. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your Son has cleansed us with His precious blood, forgiven all our sin, and revived our spirits in hope. Look upon us in compassion, and restore to us the joy of our salvation, that we no more may suffer the lament of our souls in despair.

C **Keep us, through the comfort of the Holy Spirit, from anxiety and uncertainty amid the trials and troubles of this mortal life, and deliver us into Your perfect peace on high. Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD "Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing" LSB 584





Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with



thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 3:1-19

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴ And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him. ⁷ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. ¹¹ And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² And he strictly ordered them not to make him known. ¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH-*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

⚡ THE SERMON HYMN "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve" [LSB 525]

O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call to risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, the ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, by Your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills where love is crucified.

THE SERMON

⚡ THE RESPONSE

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

⚡ THE OFFERING AND HYMN OF THANKS "Faithful God, We Bring to You" LSB 394

Faithful God, we bring to You praise and honor that You're due.
Father, who in love has giv'n all the gifts of earth and heav'n
That we may through all our days serve You in our words and ways,
Glory in the heights above; fill our hearts with joy and love.

⚡ THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- Ⓟ Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Hungry and thirsty we come to You, O Lord, and we pray You to supply us with all things needful to this body and life, and to teach us to receive Your gifts with thanksgiving.

- C** With restless hearts we come to You, O Lord, and we pray that by faith we rest our hopes, dreams, anxieties, and needs upon Your everlasting arms and find contentment and peace.
- P** Lift up the countenance of Your favor upon our nation and those who govern us in this land. Bring peace to places where war and violence threaten, and deliver us from all injustice and callous disregard of the precious gift of life.
- C** Guide governments, expand relief agencies, and inspire caring individuals of our communities, nation, and world so they may be Your instruments, O God, to provide what their citizens and neighbors need for life. Through their actions, provide relief and calm the anxiety of the poor, oppressed, and lonely. Meet their needs as fits Your gracious plans for them.
- P** Holy are You, O God. With thanksgiving and praise, we bless You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to give Himself as a perfect sacrifice, so that our lives may know that true peace and joy, as we grow in faithfulness and in holiness of living. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we may live lives of confident faith, securely awaiting the eternal feast with all the saints in glory everlasting.
- C** O Lord, Your mercies are new every morning, and Your Word is our lamp and our light. Help us so to walk in Your ways that in time of persecution and threat we be steadfast in faith. Guide us, Father, through the uncertainties and anxieties we meet, with the confidence that if we are Yours, we have nothing to fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** It is good and right so to do.
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising you and singing:

THE SANCTUS (LSB 507)

"Holy, holy, holy!" all the saints in glory
 Fill Your temple with their song around Your golden throne;
 "Holy, holy, holy!" with them we adore You;
 God in three persons, all in Christ as one.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.' The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

THE AGNUS DEI (LSB 702)

O Lamb of God, we pray: take all our sins away—
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all, strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call and grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

If you are a guest with us this evening and would like to commune, please read the article on the back page before communing with us. Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that You would still my mind and quiet my heart as I approach this communion table tonight. Draw me into closer fellowship with Yourself, as I eat the bread and drink the wine, in grateful remembrance of what You did for me on Calvary. Amen.



THE HYMN "What is This Bread" LSB 629



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He	should	Un -	der	the	rod?
Word	and	prom -	ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (LSB 851)

Lord, now let Your humble servant in Your peace and joy depart.
You've fulfilled Your Word, so fervent, kept Your promise, true at heart.
Now my eyes have seen salvation—You've prepared for all who dwell
Light to ev'ry Gentile nation and Your people Israel.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Lord of mercy, You have promised that Your Word will not return empty but will accomplish Your purpose. Secure our hearts in this confidence so that we may be free from anxiety to rejoice in our own salvation and to joyfully proclaim the good news of our Savior to all people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

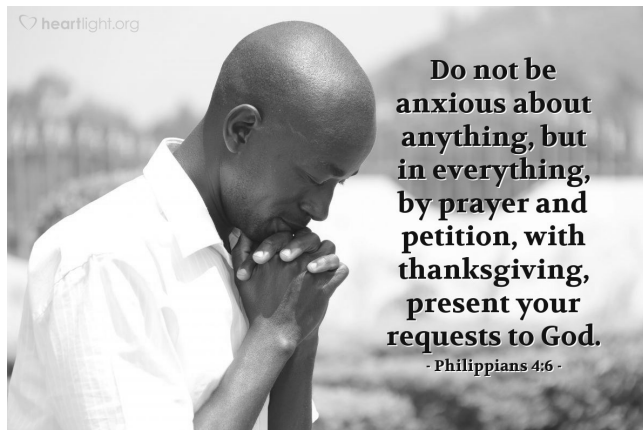
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His peace.

G Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER

O Lord, my dwelling place and my peace, keep all worry and fearfulness far from me, that, having confessed my sins and commending myself to Your gracious mercy, I may commit myself and all I love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep. Amen.



THE CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

THE POSTLUDE



The Gospel Of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels. It is probably the first gospel written. All but 31 verses are quoted in the other gospels, leading many to conclude that Matthew and Luke used Mark's gospel as source material. The Believer's Bible Commentary notes that because of its brevity, Mark's gospel is an ideal introduction to the Christian faith. In mission fields it is often the first book translated into a new language.

Who was Mark? The early and unanimous opinion is that John Mark wrote this gospel. His mother was Mary, who had a large house in Jerusalem (Ac 12:12). Some speculate the Last Supper took place in her home (Robertson's Word Pictures), also that Mark may have been the young man who fled naked (Mk 14:51-52).

His cousin was Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus (Ac 4:36-37; Col 4:10). Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but turned back (Ac 13:5,13). This caused trouble between Paul and Barnabas (Ac 15:36-41), though he later became a fellow laborer and comfort to Paul (Phm 1:24; Col 4:10-11). In Paul's final words, he wrote that Mark proved "useful to me for ministry" (2 Ti 4:11).

Mark also accompanied Peter, who called him "his son" and who was in "Babylon" (Rome?) at the time (1 Pe 5:13). Traditions outside the Bible state that Mark was an interpreter for Peter (Papias, 130 A.D.), and that Mark composed his gospel mostly from Peter's memoirs (Justin Martyr, 150 A.D.).

Date According to tradition, Mark went to Alexandria in Egypt where he died in 64 A.D. Barnes suggests the book was written between 56 and 63 A.D., and other scholars date the book in the early 50's. A plausible date would be 57-59 A.D. (Bible Knowledge Commentary).

Theme Mark's gospel was evidently written to Gentiles, perhaps Christians in Rome. Jewish customs are explained - Mk 7:3-4 • Aramaic expressions are translated into Greek - Mk 3:17; 5:41; 7:11 • Roman reckoning of time is used - Mk 6:48; 13:35 • Only Mark identifies Simon of Cyrene as the father of Rufus - Mk 15:21; Ro 16:13 • Few Old Testament quotations are used.

The focus appears to be on Jesus as the Perfect Servant (BBC). Mark emphasizes the deeds of the Lord more than His words (he records nineteen miracles, but only four parables), the deeds of one who "did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mk 10:45). Thus one could say that the theme of Mark's gospel is: Jesus, Servant of Man.

Outline

1. The preparation for Jesus' ministry - Mk 1:1-13
2. His ministry in Galilee - Mk 1:14-9:50
3. His journey to Jerusalem - Mk 10:1-52
4. His ministry in Jerusalem - Mk 11:1-13:37
5. His suffering and death in Jerusalem - Mk 14:1-15:47
6. His resurrection and appearances - Mk 16:1-13
7. His great commission and continued work from heaven - Mk 16:14-20

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

As You come to the Lord's Supper, you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, that with Lutheran Christians, you believe His Body and Blood are present and you desire to serve Him as a dynamic disciple in the fellowship of all believers. Our Holy Communion practice is called "CLOSE" communion, not "CLOSED" communion. "Close" communion invites all those who answer the following questions in the affirmative. We DO seek to help each visitor and member, to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament. If you have not communed with us before, or if you cannot answer yes to the questions below, please speak to our Pastor or an Elder before communing.

1. Have I been baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do I believe that I am a sinful human being without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ?
3. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?
4. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His true Body and Blood?
5. Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a Godly life?

At Messiah, Communion is distributed in a manner whereby the individual cup, followed by the common cup, are offered at the same table. Communicants seated in the left section of the Sanctuary proceed to the altar first, standing behind the usher. Then the communicants in the right section will proceed to the altar, also standing behind the usher. This will provide a prayerful setting surrounding the significance of receiving Christ's body and blood.

A light, alcohol-free wine is offered in clear glasses in the individual trays. Gluten-free wafers are available at the usher table in the back.

Serving in the Lord's House Tonight

PREACHER	Rev. Matthew Allen Lee
ORGANIST	Teresa Logue
ELDERS	Kevin Warneke, Mark Fischer
USHERS	Bruce Kofoed, Chris Trimpe
A/V TEAM	Danny Ladishew, Chuck Tolsma

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