ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

welcomes you!

May 18, 2025



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

"SHINE" CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1st Saturdays-Chapel)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM **EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM**

105 EAST "D" STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220 EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR

- + To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! "Quiet Bags" (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).
- + An accessible Restroom is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the accessibility lift to the lower level. Parish Hall and additional Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.
- + Assistive listening devices and low vision items are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.
- + Land Acknowledgement: This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

PRELUDE "Kingsfold" by E. Diemer

WELCOME Please STAND as you are able

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

HYMN FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

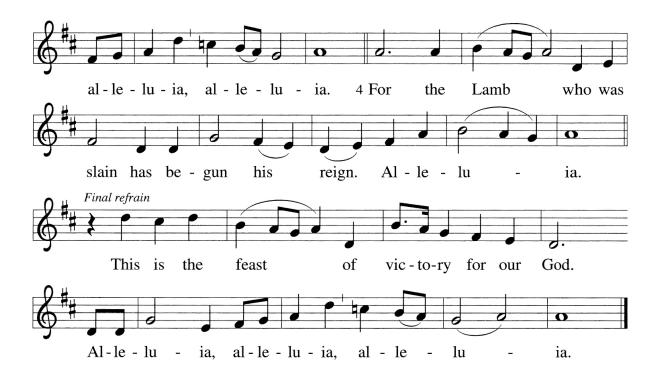


GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ¹I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ³But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ³But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹¹OThis happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began

to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

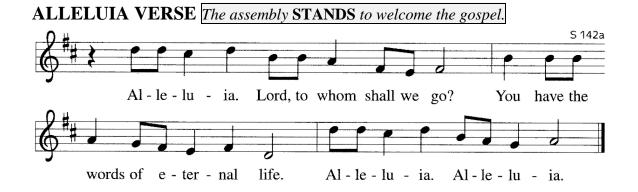
Death will be no more:

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** Please SIT

SERMON

"Love that Opens New Doors"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** to proclaim the word of God in song.



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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 The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "God, in your mercy," is "Hear our prayer"...

John Andersen, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Lois Gentsch,
 Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Linda Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow,
 Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey

PEACE The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments.

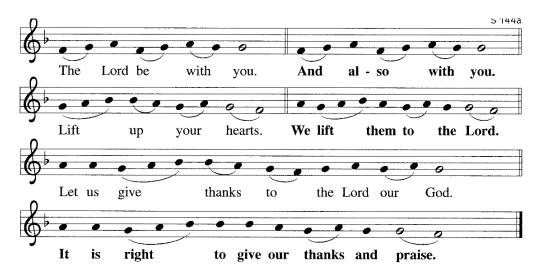
OFFERING Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.

OFFERTORY "Catch the Vision! Share the Glory!" by Vajda & Schalk St. Mark Chancel Choir To follow along with the anthem, lyrics are on page 11

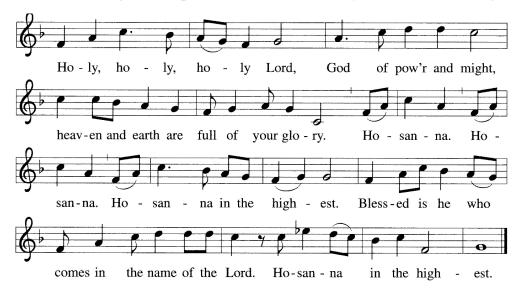
OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together... Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER contemporary

Our Father 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.

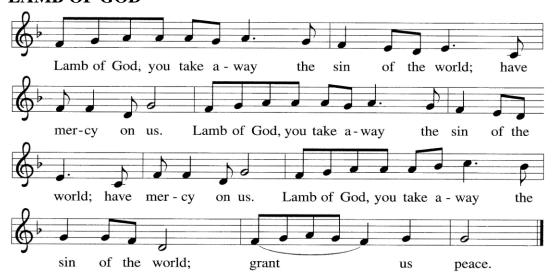
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION Please SIT

Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.

- After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.
- **¥** You may return to your seat after communing.
- Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.
- Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.
- If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.

SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

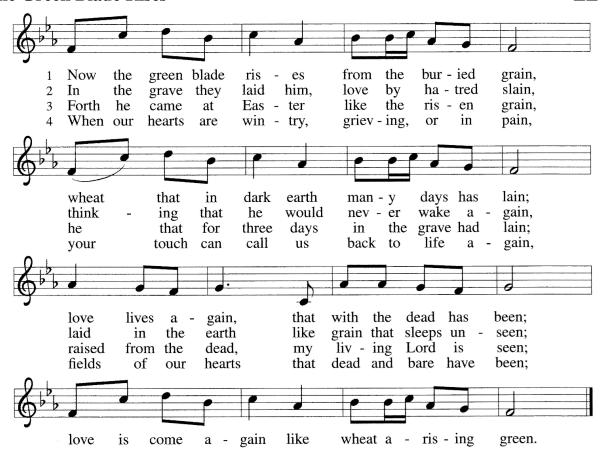
We bear the sign



of

Je - sus Christ, that time can - not

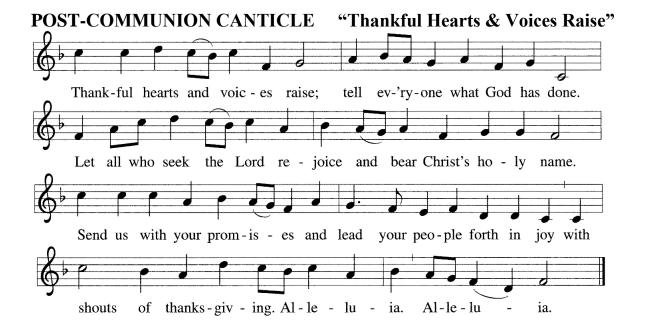
ELW #204



After the distribution is complete, the assembly **STANDS** for the blessing.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Triune God who was, who is, and who is to come – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit – light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Let All Things Now Living"

E. Diemer

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Sherri Foppe

Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp + Lector: Terry Tribout + Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + Safety Volunteer: Frank Dressel + Organist: Evelyn Duncan

Choir Director: Charlie Duncan + **Ushers:** Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann

Lyrics to Offertory Anthem

Blessed children, saints, elect of God, Globe-encircling cloud of witnesses: We have heard the Christmas angels, We have seen the Easter sunrise, Cried with joy when Christ began his reign.

Refrain: Catch the vision! Share the Glory!

Show the Captives, tell them: Christ is here!

For this time and place have we been born, Gifted by the Spirit, trained, and sent: With the eyes of Jesus seeing, with the hands of Jesus helping, With the words of Jesus bringing life. **Refrain.**

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

John Andersen, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Lois Gentsch, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Linda Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinskey

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam,
Jordyn Brazelton, Patty Brennecke, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis,
Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano,
David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin
Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus,
Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt,
Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout,
Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims,
Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson,
Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

Members who celebrate birthdays this week

Kathy Rothgangel (5/21), Melanie Robison (5/21), June Isselhardt (5/23), Jan Litherland (5/24), and Abby Monfre (5/24)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Pr. Brian & Melanie Robison (5/18)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Administrative Assistant: Randi Cardoza + Music Director: Carol Kugler

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse**: Becky Schnitzius

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt



NEWS and NOTES for May 18, 2025

Monday, May 19: 2:30PM Fiber Arts – Westfield Manor

Wednesday, May 21: 11:30AM Table Talk: AgeSmart Community Resources – Parish Hall

Thursday, May 15: 6:00PM Yoga class – *Parish Hall*

6:15PM Bell choir rehearsal

7:00PM Chancel choir rehearsal

ConGRADulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God's blessings upon this year's graduates:

Harmon Fuchs – High Mount School (will attend Belleville West)

Blake Maes – Quincy University (Business and Management)

Abby Monfre - Mascoutah Middle School (will attend Mascoutah High School)

Ash Robinson – Freeburg High School (will attend SWIC)

Melaina Robison – Belleville West High School (will attend Maryville University)

St. Mark Table Talk: AgeSmart Community Resources

Bring a lunch and join us on **Wednesday, May 21 at 11:30AM** in the <u>Parish Hall</u> for a special Table Talk featuring **Christina Fulton**, Home and Community Based Services Manager for **AgeSmart** Community Resources. AgeSmart Community Resources works to help older adults remain independent in their homes and communities. Through planning, funding, responding to community needs and providing answers on aging, AgeSmart Community Resources helps people age well their way.

Worship Focus for May - Female Musicians

This month, we are featuring in our worship services some female musicians who have had an influence on our music today. Each week features a short biography on the individual and a prelude or postlude they have composed. Come a few minutes early, read their bio (below), and hear beautiful music as you prepare for worship.

Today's Composer Spotlight - Emma Lou Diemer (1927 – 2024)

Dr. Diemer, born in Kansas City, Missouri, became a church organist at 13. She earned music degrees from Yale and a PhD from Eastman. She taught at the University of Maryland and UC Santa Barbara, where she helped launch the electronic music program. A composer-in-residence with the Santa Barbara Symphony, she wrote extensively for organ, piano, solo instruments, chamber ensembles, choir, electronic media, and hymns. She is the composer of our **prelude** and **postlude** this morning.



St. Mark Offerings (5/11): Gen. Fund: \$15,789

Graduation Party Invitation

Pastor Brian and Melanie invite St. Mark members to celebrate **Melaina**'s graduation from Belleville West! Join us **Saturday, May 24**, **2–7 PM** at **1600 Westhampton Trace**, Belleville. Your presence means so much—no gifts needed. Thank you for being an important part of her journey!

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program is Back!

We're partnering again with Westview Baptist to provide **free lunches for low-income kids! Donations (starting May 18):** Individually packaged Cheez-Its, chips, pretzels, nut-free cookies, and juice pouches (e.g., Capri Sun).

Drop off at church or contact **Sherri Foppe** for other arrangements.

- **+ Monetary gifts welcome:** Give to Sherri, Ann Martens, or online: secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7
- + Food Safety: Gloves required for packing; masks optional for delivery.
- + Volunteers Needed for...

Packing: Wednesdays, 5–5:45 PM @ Westview Baptist

Delivery: Thursdays, 10:35 AM-1 PM

Dates: June 4–Aug 7 (weekly)

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall!

Info: Sherri (618)791-6148 | cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann (618)235-7762 | ga72mart@charter.net

Summer Sack Lunch Mini Traveling VBS

The Evangelism/Social Ministry and Christian Education teams are launching a **new mini traveling VBS** during Summer Sack Lunch deliveries!

We'll visit 4 distribution sites with a 20-minute program featuring **Bible heroes David** and **Queen Esther**, including a story/skit, craft or game, and possibly music.

Volunteers Needed!

Each site needs **4–5 helpers** (more on **June 19 & July 10** at Hough Park, which serves 40–50 children). No experience needed—just a heart to serve!

Program Dates & Times:

- **June 19** (10:50 AM–1:15 PM) *David & Goliath*, led by Sherri Foppe
- **June 26** (11:20 AM–12:30 PM) *David & Goliath*
- **July 10** (10:50 AM–1:15 PM) *Queen Esther*, led by Jan Richards
- **July 17** (11:20 AM–12:30 PM) Queen Esther
- Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall (with the Driver/Co-Pilot and Lunch Packers sheets).

Looking Ahead...

Join us **Thursday**, **May 29** at **7:00 PM** for our joint Ascension Day service with St. George's. Pr. Brian will preach, and an ice cream social will follow. Celebrate and enjoy fellowship with our Episcopal friends!

The **Patriotic Potluck** usually held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend is rescheduled to the Saturday of Independence Day weekend due to the unavailability of key people.

The **Toddhall Open House** is **Sunday**, **June 1**, **2:00-5:00 pm**. This event is open to all members of St. George's and St. Mark, and the public. It includes tours, a silent auction, live organ music, hors d'oeuvres, and more. Tickets are \$25.00. For additional information, phone 618-281-8180 or e-mail www.toddhallretreat.org.

