

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

## May 16, 2021



### **Jesus - the Holy Mural**

Unidentified artist, New Orleans, LA.

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58372>

Special thanks to the **Celebration Handbell Ringers** for leading us in worship this morning! They will be playing “For the Beauty of the Earth” (hymn #879) arranged by Kevin McChesney for the **postlude at 8:30** and the **prelude at 11:00**.

## Welcome and Worship Announcements

**Prelude (8:30)                      “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”                      Lynette Maynard**

*This hymn was written for the 14th World Council of Christian Education (1958) by Tokuo Yamaguchi, a Methodist minister from Nagasaki. The tune was written by Isao Koizumi, a church organist, composer, and professor of economics at Osaka University of Commerce. It is found at #359 in the hymnal.*

*The congregation stands*

## Invocation

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

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives  
with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

## “We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord;  
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy church acknowledges you:

**Father, of majesty unbounded;  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise;  
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you took on our flesh to set us free,  
you did not despise the Virgin’s womb.

**You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

Come, then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

**Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.  
Govern and uphold them now and always.  
Day by day we bless you. We praise your name for ever.  
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, show us your love and mercy, for we have put our trust in you.  
In you, Lord, is our hope: let us never be put to shame.**

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

### First Reading

**Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

### Psalm 22: 24-30

**Spoken responsively by verse**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's law day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

### Second Reading

**1 John 5: 9-13**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*The congregation stands*

**Gospel**

**John 17: 6-19**

The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated*

**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Voluntary**

**“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**

**Ken Medema**

*Composer Ken Medema recalls how this hymn took shape: “We started talking about a young man who was in the hospital and who really needed our prayers. In the middle of our prayer time, the idea for this little chorus came to me. I started humming, then singing. Soon the kids were mumbling along with me. We sang that chorus... several times over. So it was a song born out of our concern and prayer for a friend.” (Brink and Polman, Psalter Hymnal Handbook (1998) 801)*

## **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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

## **Peace**

*The congregation is seated*

## Offering

### Offertory

**“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

**arr. Wilbur Held**

*This shape-note tune (hymnal #461) was probably compiled from folk song fragments by William Moore, about whom we know nothing save that he lived in Wilson County, Tennessee. The text is by Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993), a pastor in the United Church of Canada and duty chaplain in a maximum security prison.*

*The congregation stands*

### Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## Dialogue

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 God thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;

you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,

you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.



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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

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

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The congregation is seated*



*The congregation stands*

**Prayer after Communion**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**Amen.**

**Announcements and Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude (11:00)**

**"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"**

**arr. Jeffery Blersch**

*The words of this hymn (#657) were compiled by Lutheran minister Otto Riethmueller in the 1930s, intended as a wake-up call to the church as the Nazis rose to power. Interestingly, Riethmueller also added "have mercy, Lord" to the end of each stanza, intentionally imitating an ancient form of German folk hymnody. It was widely sung during demonstrations and peace-prayers in East Germany during the 1980s, and remains popular today among both Protestants and Catholics.*

**Do you miss singing hymns? We do too!** While health guidelines continue to preclude in-person singing, we are making available three hymns every Sunday on our Facebook page. If you watch the livestream, just stick around after the postlude. If you are attending in person, you'll find them as a separate post on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/stmarksasheville](https://facebook.com/stmarksasheville)), generally posted at noon each Sunday. As always, you do not need a Facebook account to access these videos. If you don't have a hymnal at home, the words and music are being published on our website under "Ministry News." Make a joyful noise with us this Sunday!

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## **Ministers**

The People of God at St. Mark's

## **Staff**

Pastor: The Reverend Matthew Smith  
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Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation: Deacon Kathryn Rivers  
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Facilities Manager: Steve Henry  
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## **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

## **Our Mission**

Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith, serving all people

## **Our Vision**

Transforming lives through God's grace as an inclusive, intergenerational congregation  
in Worship, Outreach, Learning, and Fellowship.