**St. Mark’s Worship Sunday September 26, 2021**

**Welcome to our Online Worship**

**Celebration of 1st Communion**

Welcome back to worship *inside* your church!

Stationed at the tables at the entrance our greeters have hand sanitizer and masks if you need them, bulletins and self-contained communion cups (please wait for the Pastor to direct you to open them).

The restrooms will be open, but we request that one family group at a time uses the facilities.

We will be serving coffee after the service. We're staying masked to protect children and anyone who feels vulnerable, vaccinated or not. All are welcome, unless you aren't feeling well, then please recover at home and watch the worship service on Facebook live at 9 AM.

If you are worshipping at home, you may want to prepare some bread, wine, or juice to receive Holy Communion. You may commune yourself or those around you with these words:

*“The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.”*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Mission**

Celebrating God’s love and forgiveness, we serve others

***Opening Song – Oh, Sing to the Lord Verses 1,2,4,5 ELW #822***

1Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God

a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God

a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God

a new song.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2For God is the Lord, and God

has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God

has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God

has done wonders.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

4Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

5For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

**Prayer of the Day**

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Children’s message**

**Reading:** **Psalm 19:7-14**

7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
 the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
8**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;**  
 **the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**  
9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
 the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,**  
 **sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**  
11By them also is your servant enlightened,  
 and in keeping them there is great reward.  
12**Who can detect one’s own offenses?**  
 **Cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
 then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**  
  **O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

38John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40Whoever is not against us is for us. 41For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.  
  42“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.  
 49“For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon** Pastor Karla Halvorson

***Hymn of the Day – Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service All Verses ELW #712***

**1**Lord, whose love in humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken,

worked your mercy's perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship

not of voice alone, but heart;

consecrating to your purpose

ev'ry gift which you impart.

**2**Still your children wander homeless;

still the hungry cry for bread;

still the captives long for freedom;

still in grief we mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion

healed the sick and freed the soul,

by your Spirit send your power

to our world to make it whole.

**3**As we worship, grant us vision,

till your love's revealing light

in its height and depth and greatness

dawns upon our quickened sight,

making known the needs and burdens

your compassion bids us bear,

stirring us to ardent service,

your abundant life to share.

**4**Called by worship to your service,

forth in your dear name we go,

to the child, the youth, the aged,

love in living deeds to show;

hope and health, good will and comfort,

counsel, aid and peace we give,

that your servants, Lord, in freedom

may your mercy know and live.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: Hear our prayer.**

**Song**

God Is so good,

God is so good,

God is so good,

He’s so good to me!

**Blessing of prayer quilts**

**Song**

God Is so good,

God is so good,

God is so good,

He’s so good to me!

**The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

*(you may share the peace of Christ with anyone who is with you, share the peace in the comments, text an offering of peace to someone, or simply send a prayer of blessing and peace to someone.)*

**Offering**

**Thanksgiving Moment**

**Offering information**

St. Mark’s Church, 580 Hilltop Dr. Chula Vista, CA 91910

Venmo: @stmarks-churchchulavista

**Offering Song**

Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am a life that was changed

Thank you for giving to the Lord

I am so glad you gave

**Offering Prayer**

God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert

and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives

to nourish the world you love so dearly;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**First Communion Liturgy**

Pastor Alicia: We invite all those receiving first communion and their parents and sponsors to come forward and face the altar

Pastor Alicia: We begin with Scripture - Matthew 26:26-28

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ 27Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; 28for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor Karla: Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ 25In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ 26For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Pastor Alicia: You today are receiving the gift of Holy Communion, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that this is an extraordinary moment of grace. For Christ is in, with, and under the bread and fruit of the vine.

Pastor Karla: When we receive the gift of Holy Communion, we have just what the word means- union with God and the forgiveness of sins. This meal also binds us to all believers through all times and in all places, making us one in the body of Christ.

Pastor Alicia: Jesus Christ’s introduction of the Lord’s Supper is found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Jesus took bread and wine and presented it as his body and blood to his disciples. The Christian church continues this sacrament to this day. We now ask those receiving communion and their parents. What is the gift we receive from such eating and drinking?

**First Communion Parents & Families: Jesus tells us the gifts we receive in Holy Communion are forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.**

Pastor Karla: We ask you all, including the congregation…How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

**Everyone: It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written, “Given and shed FOR YOU for the remission of sins.” These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.**

**The Affirmation of Baptism**

Pastor Alicia: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers,

whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,

enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,

and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,

and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

**Congregational Profession of Faith**

Pastor Karla: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly**

Pastor Alicia: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God’s faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God’s blessing.*

Pastor Alicia: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*The blessing is repeated for each person.*

Pastors Together: Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up in (NAME) the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm them in their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering and bring them to eternal life.

**Amen.**

*Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly.*

Pastor Alicia: Would those receiving their First Communion and their family members please face the congregation.

**Congregation: We welcome you as communing members of St Mark’s Lutheran Church and the world-wide Christian community. Together we will explore the mystery and wonder of Holy Communion and accept Christ’s gifts of grace and salvation that come to us through this holy sacrament.**

****Thanksgiving**

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**Eucharistic Prayer**

*P:* You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God…. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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 the Table**

*You may now take the individual cups provided for communion. Please receive communion with these words: “The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.”*

***Communion Hymn – Lamb of God***

**Table** **Blessing**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Post**-**Communion** **Prayer**

Lord of life,

in the gift of your body and blood

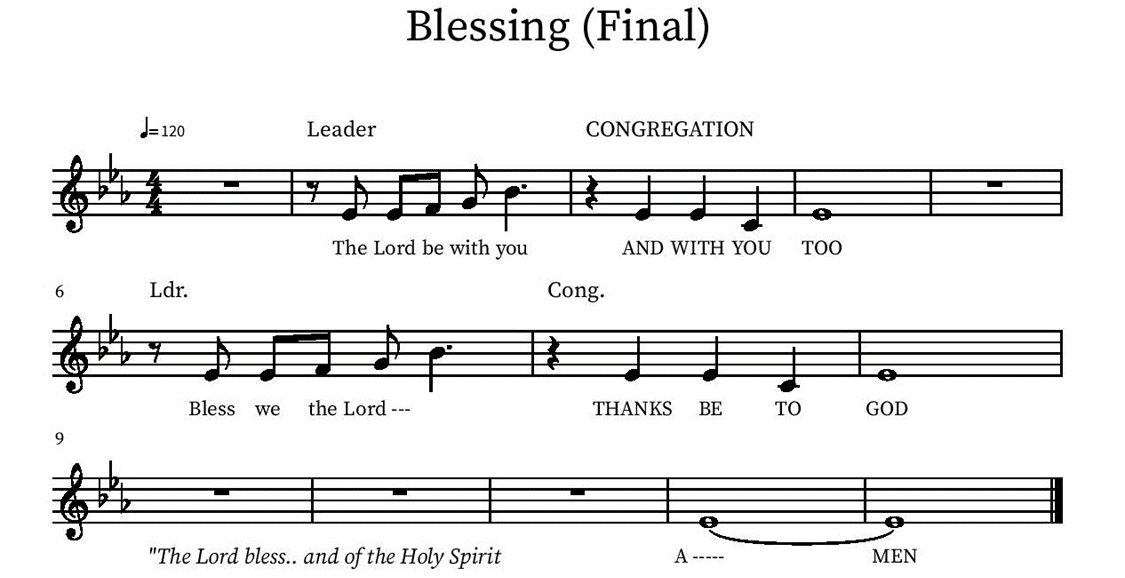
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,

bearing witness to the abundance of your love

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

****Blessing**

**Community Time**

*****Sending Song***

**Sending**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Share the Peace of the Lord in the comments below!**