

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:

July 5, 2026

Prelude

Prelude on a Shaker Tune

Gilbert M. Martin

Welcome

Hymn

God of Our Fathers

Blue Hymnal - 718

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

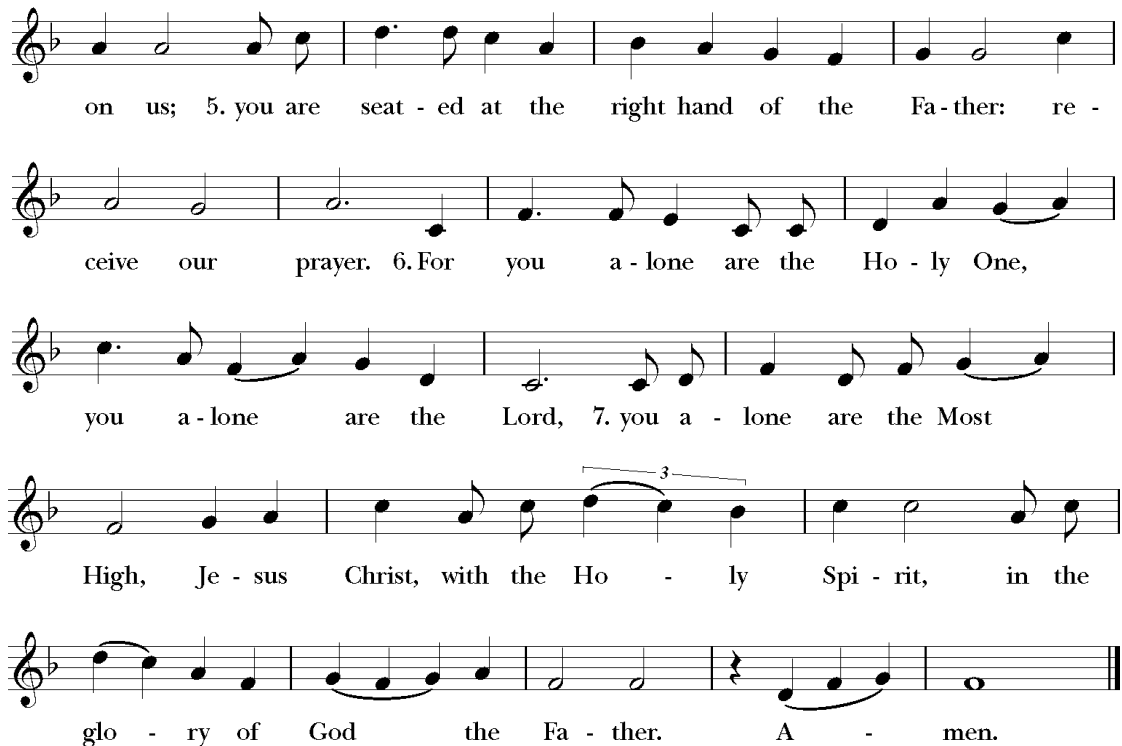
The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy



The Collect

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

All are seated.

A Reading

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45: 11-18

Eructavit cor meum

Lector: Let us read the psalm responsively by half-verse.

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

Lector: A Reading from the Prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

¶ *All are invited to stand.*

Hymn

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord, vv. 1 - 2

Blue Hymnal - 438

¶ *Verses 1 and 2 are sung before the Gospel.*

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: † Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord, vv. 3 - 4

Blue Hymnal - 438

¶ *All may be seated.*

Sermon

The Rev. Jedediah Fox, Rector

¶ *All are invited to stand.*

The 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,
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 the People

Lector: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Lector: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Lector: We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Anglican Church of South America, Sean the Presiding Bishop, the Diocese of Washington and Mariann their Bishop; Anne our Bishop Assisting, the Standing Committee of the Diocese; Holy Family of Midland and its Senior Warden, Debbie; St. Paul's of St. Joseph and its Rector, Erik; all bishops, priests, and deacons.

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Lector: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Lector: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Lector: Have compassion on those on our parish prayer list, & all who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Lector: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Lector: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Lector: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

¶ *Silence.*

¶ *The People may add their own petitions.*

¶ *The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Confession of Sin

¶ *The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

¶ *Silence may be kept.*

¶ *Minister and People*

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

The Celebrant stands and says,

Almighty God have †mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Music

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Blue Hymnal - 599

Presentation

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) in a four-part setting. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him, a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system covers the first two lines of the lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line and ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures

here be - low; praise him, a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant May God be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to Al-migh-ty God. It is right to give God thanks and Praise.

The Celebrant continues with the prayer

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

The Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People may kneel or stand.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

¶ Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

¶ The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Mark, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

¶ Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray in the language of our heart,

Traditional 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

Spanish Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona

nuestras deudas, como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

¶ The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

¶ Celebrant and People say,

We do not presume to come to your Table, O merciful Savior, trusting in our own righteousness, but in the love and mercy you bear for us. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under this table, and yet you are the God of great and unending love and mercy. Grant us therefore, God of our salvation, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation and Communion:

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

¶ The People sit.

¶ All God's people are invited to God's Altar. Follow the Ushers' direction to the communion rail and fill in from right to left.

¶ You may receive either the Common cup or by intinction (dipping). Indicate your desire for intinction by holding up your host after it has been given to you. You may indicate your desire to drink from the common cup by consuming the host immediately after it is given to you. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

¶ If you do not wish to receive the Communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Indicate your desire by crossing your hands over your chest.

¶ Reception in one kind at Communion (either bread or wine) is reception of the fullness of the Eucharist.

¶ When present in the South Transept, healing ministers offer a brief and simple prayer.

Communion Hymn

Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus

Blue Hymnal - 336

Post-Communion Prayer

¶ All are invited to stand.

¶ *The Celebrant says,*
Let us pray.

¶ *Celebrant and People,*

Eternal Giver of love and life: you have nourished us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and with one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and earth. Now send us into the world with the power of your Spirit, to preach your redeeming love, to do your justice, and to act with courage, in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

¶ *The Celebrant blesses the People*

People: Amen.

Hymn

Father All Loving, Who Rulest in Majesty

Blue Hymnal - 568

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

*Thank you for being with us today. We are all invited to participate in the St.
Mark's tradition to remain seated until candles are extinguished.
Then join in the Parish Hall fellowship.*

The St. Mark's Prayer List

The Sick and Other Needs

Alissa Almonte
Jayne Austin
Elaine Gordon
Doug Karsen
Carmela McIntire, Phil Gleason
The family of Doris Molina
Bill Nasser
Allyson Nichols
Audrey Nowak
Linda Radke
Jeanne Reale
Mark Schuurmans
Mark and Debra Udey
Meghan VanderMale
Guillermo Venecia
Roger York

Sue Allen

Susan Andrews

Nita DeGraaf

John Gracki

In Military Service

B.G. Timothy Brower, Sr. USA
SPC. Cailen W. Donahue-McLea
Cpt. Nathan Gaggin, USAF
PFC Kayla Gilardi
Amn. Jayden Karsen, USAF
Cpt. Charles Lewis, USAF
Col. Todd Murray, USAF
1st LT. John Nicholson, USA

Jennifer Julius

Kerry Morey

Mary Rollins

Irene Savara

Members of the Vestry

Ben Busman, Sr. Warden
Rex Miller, Jr. Warden
Emily Krueger, Clerk
Gloria Lara, Treasurer
Steve Bell
Christina DeKoekKoek
Scot Gugle
Rich Hiskes
Cindy Kok
Carmela McIntire
Michael Reale
Michael York

Postulant for Holy Orders

Thon Deng

Offerings and Multiple Ways to Give to St. Mark's

Place check or cash in the offering plate.

Mail a check to the church.

Gifts or transfer of stock.

Remember St. Mark's in your estate planning. (A brochure is available on the Resource Table.)

Scan the QR code to give.



Announcements

Church Closed on Monday, July 6th, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

Seeking Meals Coordinator: Contact church staff if you'd like to set up 'meal train' web forms a few times a year.

Pride and Thanks: Many thanks to Scot, Gary, Lori, Jan, Wendy, Chris W, Christina; C, Bird and Juno; Jeanne, Brian, Peggy, Chris D, Susan, Heather, Mike, Anne, Mike, Kate A, Erik and Sherry for representing St. Mark's!

Thank you to the Multiple Sclerosis Fundraisers! Thank you to Alexis and Steven M for joining Erik's bike team. They raised \$2,309.74! Erik will organize another bike team next year, so save the date for the first June weekend.

Voter Pledge Cards for Together West Michigan: Please help us meet our goal of 250 voter pledge cards. Take several from the Welcome Desk and return them completed. These show local candidates we will watch their stances on community-identified issues: transportation, housing, immigrant and refugee wellbeing, policing, and childcare and education. Then join in the Aug. 27th Delegates' Assembly and Oct. 10th Candidates' Accountability Session.

Creation Care Ministry's Quarterly Zoom, Monday the 13th at 7 pm. We will discuss our waste reduction program, Solar at St Mark's, and Diocesan Creation Care efforts (including *Holy Ground for Whole Communities*). If interested the ministry or just this meeting, contact steven.mark.mulder@gmail.com, (616)581-2020.

Ordination of John Khot Atem and Stephanie Ann Coté, July 14th, 7 pm at Grace Episcopal Church.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

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... a vibrant community of faith, gathered for worship since 1836.

St. Mark's Staff

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The Rev. Jan Gockerman

Deacon

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Mike Armour

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Dr. Gary Gordon

Director of Music

Ronnie Hammond

Sexton

Craig Mosley

Sexton, Videographer, Photographer

Cristian "C" Bartolo

Sexton

Eric Gable

Webmaster

St. Mark's recognizes that our property sits on land of the Indigenous peoples of the Three Fires: Anishinaabe, Odawa and Bodéwadmi. It is our privilege to occupy this land while recognizing and acknowledging with sadness the deep wounds that continue to exist by that occupation, and we pray and work for reconciliation.