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PRAYER LIST:

HEALING: Vernon Weigand; Krystal Barnhart; Norma Collosi – significant health issues; Bradley Holmes (Frances Weigand’s grand-nephew) - healing; Patrick Fields (husband of school employee) - medical; Viola C. Bradshaw; Caleb Woodward (Gwen’s nephew) - accident; George Trapani (Sharon Heck son-in-law) - medical issues

ILLNESS: Pat Dickerman - cancer; Bob Mericle - lung cancer; Robert Dutil - dementia; Erin Taylor (Nathan Magdaleno’s friend) - ALS; Daniella Escalante - medical

RECOVERY: Bob Merchant - heart surgery

TREATMENTS: Tom O’Connell (Dan O’Connell’s brother) - cancer; Amy Stenberg (friend of Anna Guerriero & Lee Uhl) - brain cancer; Lorna Delgado (Ms. Dominique’s mom) - cancer treatments; Bill McDonnell (Krista Guerrero’s boss) - prostate cancer

HOSPICE: Faye Heinrich; Marty Green -Ponce (friend of Juliana Guerriero)

New Worship Series begins next Sunday: A Living Daring Confidence

We will be looking at critical readings from the Letter to the Romans that helped Luther understand the core Christian teachings and messages. Next week we start with “The Righteous Shall Live by Faith. There will also be themes and activities for the kids, we will also have prayer booklets on Martin’s hymns.

ZOOM BIBLE FELLOWSHIP WITH PASTOR JIM ON TUESDAYS: We will have time to share highs and lows and have a discussion on the Bible readings in the coming week's sermon/ readings. Zoom links will be sent out Tuesday at 10:00 A.M. Readings: Habakkuk 2:1-4, Romans 1:16- 17 and John 5:21-24. Tuesday from 11:00 A.M. - Noon. Tuesday evening 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, October 9, 7:00 pm on Zoom. The Bible study is titled Holy Places, Session two, Sanctuary, and begins on page 34 of the September/October Gather Magazine. Ruth Jasso will lead the discussion. The Zoom link will be sent a day or so before the meeting. All are welcome to attend, so send your email address to Sharon Heck if you wish to receive the Zoom link. s.heck4peace@gmail.com Come join us.

MY BIBLE STEPPING STONE CLASS : Second class today after worship

SIGN-UP for the Giving Thanks Potluck on Sunday, November 5th in the Narthex.

NEW HORIZONS needs breakfast items only. **ACTION FOOD PANTRY** needs various food items and/or donations. They are requesting cans of fruits. **Egg cartons are NOT needed anymore.**

Thank you for joining us!



Blessing of the Animals

OUR MISSION

Reaching out to the community to share the Gospel through faith, fellowship, and service.

OUR VISION

Become the visible presence of Christ in this community

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 1, 2023, 10:00 AM

St. Mark's Lutheran



2323 Las Lomas Dr. Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 961-2486

Stmarkshh.com

church@stmarks.ws

St.MarksLCHH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are glad you are here! May this be a holy time for you to offer your praise to God as well as receive God's grace through word, sacrament, song, and prayer.

We invite you to let us know you are here today by completing a connect card or a visitor card in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. For those online, you can leave a comment or use the connect section on our website or App. We hope you will also let us know how this worship has touched you.

You may contact Françoise our church Office Administrator at fdutil@stmarks.ws or email Pastor Mericle directly, pastorjim@stmarkshh.com. 562-360-9812

If you have questions, about the service or St. Mark's, please do not hesitate to ask one of the ushers.

Holy Communion

We will be sharing Holy Communion today as well - If you wish to receive communion, please pick up a communion kit at the table where you came onto the lunch patio or have bread/cracker and wine/juice available if you are joining us online. Please complete the connect card to let us know you were with us today - we are grateful for your presence at worship.

SERVING TODAY

PASTOR: the Reverend James Mericle

WORSHIP PIANIST/CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR: Graham Jackson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kim Brown

LECTOR: Kim Winn

CHILDREN'S SERMONETTE: Norm Rumpf

ALTAR GUILD: Marian Locke, Kim Winn

TECH: Chris Birtja, Garrett Birtja

CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil Barnhart, Frank Winn

HEAD USHERS: Ron Hussey, Steven Chou

USHERS: Emil Wolfe, Dick Heinrich, Frank Winn

ACOLYTE: Blake Do

Last Sunday's
Attendance

169 in-person
48 online

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+ indicates to stand as you are able. If it is difficult for you to stand, please feel free to stay seated or sit back down at any time.

+ DISTRIBUTION & BLESSING (using Communion Kits)

Gathering + Word + Meal + Sending

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The minister circulates through the congregation, asks the name of the animal, places his hand on the animal's head (if appropriate) and then blesses the animal]:

[insert name], May you be blessed in the name of God, who created you. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.

+ BENEDICTION

L As God has blessed you with these pets, so may they be blessed in your care.

(After all the animals have been blessed)

The blessings of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

+ DISMISSAL & VISION

So that we may be
**the visible presence of Christ
in this community.**
Let us Go in Peace.
Thanks be to God.

PEACE

Gathering + Word + **Meal**+ Sending

+ OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY RESPONSE Create in Me a Clean Heart

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

+ OFFERING PRAYER

L God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives.

C With all animals around the throne, we bless the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION—WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L The Creator be with you and with all creation.

C And also with you.

L Open your hearts.

C We open them to our Creator.

L Let us give thanks to our Creator.

C It is right to join creation in thanking God.

L On the night in which he was betrayed.

C Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**



Gathering + Word + Meal + Sending

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND THEMES OF THE DAY

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church! It is a joy to have you be a part of this community today, as we gather to worship God and give thanks to our Lord, Jesus. We have a very special worship service today as we also commemorate Francis of Assisi, a great sharer of the good news of Jesus in the early 13th century and known for his affinity for animals.

Today we will be blessing our animals or pets near the end of the worship service, so make sure to have your pets or a picture of your pet with you when the time comes. Blessings to each of you and may the Holy Spirit refresh the path before you!

+ GATHERING HYMN

The Lion and the Lamb

Handout

**He's coming on the clouds,
kings and kingdoms will bow down.
And every chain will break
as broken hearts declare His praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?**

**Our God is the Lion,
The Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power,
and fighting our battles.
And every knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb,
the Lamb that was slain.
For the sins of the world,
His blood breaks the chains.
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before Him.**

**So open up the gates,
Make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save
is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?**

**Our God is the Lion,
The Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power,
and fighting our battles.
And every knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb,
the Lamb that was slain.
For the sins of the world,
His blood breaks the chains.
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before Him.**

+ THANKS AND CONFESSION

L Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

C We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

C We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

C We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

C We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests, oceans, or fields,

C We are sorry.

L I speak for Christ. For all your sins against the creatures of Earth, I forgive you and I call upon you to honor and protect all my animals. Yes, I speak for Christ. May the animals of Earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life.

C Amen! Amen! Shalom! Shalom!

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

L Almighty God, you have made us and all living things. For these pets who give us joy, we thank and praise you. We trust your care, O God. Make us faithful as we care for our pets. In so doing, we share in your love for all creation. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

Gathering + **Word** + Meal + Sending

READING

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Job 12:7-10

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We Thank You, God, For Animal Friends

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Norm Rumpf

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

SERMON

The Joy of Animals

Pastor Mericle

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Stanzas 1 & 2

All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;

Sing, sister moon and stars of night: Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with cloud and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain

Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear,

Make music for your Lord to hear: Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

+ 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 THE CHURCH

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**