



~October 3, 2021~

World Communion & Neighbors In Need Special Offering

St. Mark's United Church of Christ

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Organist: Ann Rodewald

Director: Cindy Sohn

Readers: Sandy Perronne/Deb LaDuke

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Call to Worship: (responsively)

L: Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows.

P: Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows.

L: And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows.

P: We have been called and claimed by the God of all things,

L: And by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's love,

P: Our sins have been forgiven.

Opening Prayer (All together):

Almighty God, even as the drums of warfare beat on through the night,
even as the cries of injustice linger in the morning,
even as the hustle of busyness rumbles through the day,
quiet our hearts. Still our thoughts. Join us in our worship.
We worship through the proclamation of your good news, in story and in
song, and through the hospitality of your gracious table. *Amen.*

Doxology:

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

Hymn of Life: (#47 Binder)

Gather Us In

Words of Grace from Darryl Gumm: United Church Men and Women

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table,
but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all
creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have
promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the
world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in
our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. Have mercy on us. Forgive
us and transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table
as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord.

Words of Assurance: (All together)

**Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are
empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren,
God's love overflows. Friends, we have been called and claimed by the God of
all things, and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the power of God's
love, our sins have been forgiven. Amen.**

Hymn of Assurance: (#8 Hymnal)

Praise Ye the Lord

Prayer of Illumination:

Almighty God, give us ears to hear your story in these words of Scripture; give us
eyes to see your story in the faces of those that surround us; and give us faith
enough, that by your grace, we might serve you until the end of our days. *Amen.*

Scripture Reading:

Luke 22:14-20; 24:45-47a

Message: *What Does the Forgiveness of Sins Have to do with Communion?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

St. James Choir:

As We Break the Bread

Sacrament of Holy Communion: *(insert)*

Offering

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (all together)

Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Sending: (#10 Blnder)

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Benediction:

You were called to this table. You were fed at this table. You were united at this table. Now, you are sent from this table into all the world.

Go therefore into the world, with courage. Set a place for all who hunger. Fill the cup of all who thirst.

And as you go, may the Spirit of power and love attend you, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ uphold you, and may the great faithfulness of our God sustain you, now and always. *Amen.*

Postlude

Go Forth for God

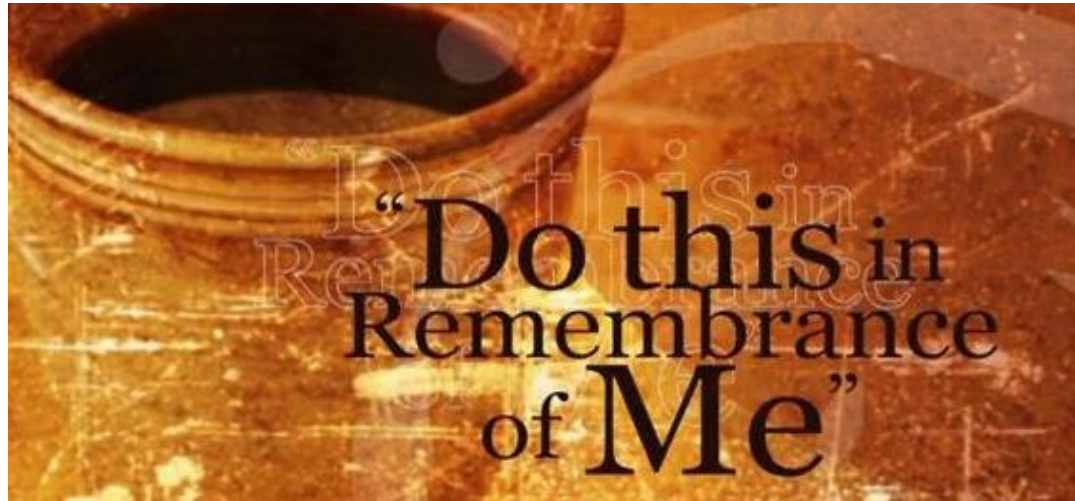
Luke 22:14-20; 24:45-47a

And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."



Be sure to complete your 'Welcome Card' and indicate that you took Communion today. That information is recorded and becomes part of the church documents.



INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

L: Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, confess your sin. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace. Let us gather our hearts.

P: Our hearts are at home in God.

L: Let us give thanks for God's unfailing love.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: Let every heart be uplifted.

P: Let us prepare to receive our Christ.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to praise you, Lord.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all your people and all the company of heaven.

P: God of all creation, from the beginning you have made this world in love, and you have created us to live in love. We see your glory in the tender orchid, in the thunderous storm, in majestic mountains and the glittering expanse of the sea. We rejoice in the works of your hands, and it is right and good for us to give thanks to

you, in all times and in all places, with a joyful and grateful heart. So, we join our voices with the voices of the angels and the communion of saints:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

All glory and honor are yours, O God, for you bring life from death, joy from suffering, dancing from mourning, and forgiveness from sin. We give thanks that abundant life is made known to us and present within us in your son Jesus, who has come to live and die as one of us. By him, with him, and in him, the web of your love is made whole, and we with it.

Gather us now at your table, O God, that we may be sustained in our journey of faith. May these gifts of the earth be for us the gift of your goodness made present and made known.

Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has come among us. Christ has died.

Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us.

Pour out your Spirit on us.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts.

Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ.

Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

And grant that we who eat of this feast may be filled with your life and goodness. Join me now in prayer, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



This week's celebrations:

Birthdays:

Oct. 3rd – Diane Luckow

7th – ValJean Marcoe

8th – William Luebke

9th – Joanne Fessler, Colten Sommer

Anniversaries:

Oct. 8th – Mike & Kristin Zolltheis

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.

- ❖ Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.
- ❖ Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.
- ❖ Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.
- ❖ If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Website: www.stmstjucc.org email: stmstjoffice@gmail.com

phone: 920.693.8361

Send an email to be added to our prayer team.

Messages are uploaded to YouTube: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

LOOKING AHEAD.....NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

St. James Worship Service begins at 9:00am,
Sunday School – 10:00 - 11:00

St. Mark's Worship Service begins at 10:30am,
Sunday School – 9:00 – 10:00

ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE – 6:30pm, Monday, Oct. 4th

ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL – 6:30pm, Tuesday, Oct. 5th

TODAY, 5:30pm to 7:30pm! First meeting for the High School Youth of both churches at St. Mark's for pizza, games and discussion, as well as making plans for the group's first "field trip".

CONFIRMATION – First meeting is Wed., Oct. 6th, 6pm at St. James for Confirmands, Parents & Mentors. WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE MENTORS. Mentoring is a wonderful opportunity to share your Christian experiences and get to know the youth in our church, as well as enriching your faith. Let Pastor know if you are willing to mentor a confirmation student this year.

STUDY GROUPS – Pastor Patrick is looking to start two study groups early October. One would be working to finish the *Study of Luke* – that was discontinued last year due to Covid concerns. The other study group is called "Get Acquainted With Your Bible" book. This group is open to all ages. This is a great place to start if you are not very familiar with the Bible: the two testaments; the various books, letters and characters.

For the two study groups noted, we will need to order books for the class, so please let Pastor Patrick or Karen Mansker, our office administrator, that you plan on attending. The classes will be held at St. Mark's UCC.

Email: schultzpw@gmail.com or the church office stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call 920-693-8361

REMINDERS:

Oct. 7th – St. James Consistory Meeting, 6:30pm

St. Mark's Consistory Meeting, 6:30pm

Oct. 10th – CROP Walk

Oct. 17th – Mission Fest at St. James

Note from Karen in the office: Be sure to check both your 'Promotions' and 'Spam' folders on your email account several times a week. Many times emails from the church office end up there.

NOTES:

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Additional Text:

Matthew 26:26-28 1 Peter 3:18

Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper is mentioned in the New Testament of the Bible and it refers to the act of thanksgiving and remembrance of the death of Christ, our relationship through the new covenant and the forgiveness of sins.

The first communion took place during the Passover feast as Jesus ate with his disciples. The act of communion uses bread to symbolize the body of Jesus and wine (juice) to represent his blood. As we take communion, the purpose is to remember his sacrifice on the cross, to examine ourselves and confess our sins and proclaim him Lord and Savior.

As we take the bread representing your life that was broken for us, we remember and celebrate. We cannot fathom the depth of agonizing suffering you endured on the cross. Yet, you took that pain for us. In the same way, as we take this cup representing your blood poured out for from the splintered cross, we realize you were the supreme sacrifice for all our sins, past present and future. Your blood shed for us; your body broken for us. Because of you we can be free from the power and penalty of sin. Your pain was our gain. Today we remember and celebrate the precious gift of life you gave us through the blood you spilled. (re-write from Rebecca Barlow Jordan)

Prayer: Each time I take communion, Lord, I want to recommit my life, my heart, my thoughts, my everything to you. In your precious name, *Amen*.