

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / MISSION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 28, 2024

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Gary Koltz, Vacancy Pastor

9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP

**Congregational meeting today at 10:45 a.m.
after Worship**

Sunday Service Streamed at www.marcolutheran.org

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

www.marcolutheran.org/foundation

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

secretary@marcolutheran.org

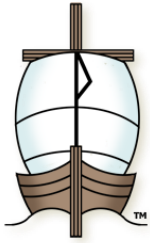
TO CONTACT CHURCH STAFF PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

(239) 394-0332

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“At Marco Lutheran Church, we are followers of Jesus Christ who share His Good News by loving and serving all people.”

**A special *Welcome* to the Guatemala Mission Team
from Thrive Community Church!**



THE SHIP OF THE CHURCH

For Christians, since the days of the apostles, *THE SHIP* has been a symbol for the Christian Church. The mast and yardarm form a simple *CROSS* (in wood) which stands for Jesus who saved us by giving Himself on a cross that we might be forgiven.

The *CHI RHO* ✠ (in metal) is a combination of the first two Greek letters of the name *Christ*, meaning "The Anointed One" or "The Messiah." *THE WAVES* symbolize the troubles and difficulties of life on earth. *THE SAILS* are filled with wind, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which empowers the Church. Thus, the Christian Church, under the Cross of Christ carries the faithful safely across the troubled seas of life to heaven. As we come together for worship, the cross of Christ is before us. We choose, you and I, to worship with people for whom the cross is both the sign of salvation and the sign of Christ in our lives.

A special *welcome* to our guests today.

May you find grace and blessing in the time we spend together. If you are looking for a church home, please speak to the Pastor, the Lay Minister for the day, or an Usher. We would be most pleased to share with you ways in which you might become a regular part of our Christian fellowship.



HOLY COMMUNION – WHAT WE BELIEVE

In this Sacrament, Jesus gives us Himself, His true Body and Blood as we receive the bread and wine. On the night He was betrayed and before He was put to death, Jesus celebrated this Meal with His disciples assuring us that each time we receive it, we are again remembering His death and receiving the full benefits of His grace, namely the forgiveness of sin.

In 1 Corinthians 11, St. Paul says that we should “examine ourselves” ahead of time. We can do so each time by asking ourselves these basic questions:

- † **Do I acknowledge the fact that I am indeed a sinner and that I am sorry for my sin?**
- † **Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from all sin?**
- † **Am I trusting in Jesus’ promise that I receive full pardon and strength through this Holy Meal?**
- † **Do I believe that the body and blood of Jesus is truly present in, with and under the bread and the wine of Holy Communion?**
- † **Finally, with the Lord’s help, will I seek to amend my life and live in conformity with His Holy Will?**

Jesus Himself invites baptized followers, who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior, who recognize their sinful condition and who seek His forgiveness, to come to His Table to receive His precious Body and Blood. May the Lord bless your personal reception as well as your daily living under His power and blessing. Should you have questions, please see a Pastor or a Lay minister prior to the worship service. If you prefer not to participate in the sacrament, please cross your arms when coming forward to receive a blessing.

For those who prefer, **white grape juice is in the center of the tray**. There are also **gluten free wafers** by informing a distributing Host. For those who may have **difficulty coming to the front**, please **inform an usher** so that the Sacrament may be brought to you.

As We Gather



When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

PRELUDE

John Davis



✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

The congregational responses in this service are printed in **BOLD**

Please Stand

HYMN

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

LSB 660



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

People: Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

People: For great is the LORD and worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Leader: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

Leader: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

People: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

Leader: We worship and sing to the Lord who is Father, Son and + Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Please Be Seated

HYMN

Listen, God is Calling

LSB 833 V.1

Refrain
Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,

Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

1 2

Leader All

1 Je - sus gave His man - date: Share the good news

Leader All *Refrain*

That He came to save us And set us free.

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Tune: Public domain

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

Leader: ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south[Ⓜ] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
 People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Listen, God is Calling

LSB 833 V.2

Refrain
 Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,
 Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.
 2 Let none be for - got - ten Through - out the world.
 In the tri - une name of God Go and bap - tize.

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 Tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

1 John 4:1–11

Leader: Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has

come in the flesh is from God,³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

HYMN

Listen, God is Calling

LSB 833 V.3

Refrain
Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,

Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

3 Help us to be faith - ful, Stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Walk - ing in Your pre - cepts, — Led by Your Word.

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please Be Seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

So Will I

(Duet)

SERMON

Pastor Gary Koltz

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

MISSION VIDEO

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Dear Jesus, our provider, we thank You for Your goodness in our lives. As we give our tithes and offerings, we recognize Your generosity in our lives. You are a giving God, who gives generously. We can never out give You. You are a God who blesses, and our lives are all blessed by You. Thank You, Father, for giving us financial blessings. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for the gift of faith. We thank You God for providing good jobs and businesses to everyone in this place. We thank You for the physical and mental strength that You provide so that we can perform our best in our jobs, businesses, and ministries. O Jesus, we praise and thank You.

People: Amen.

HYMN

How Shall They Hear

LSB 831 v.1,2,5

1 "How shall they hear," who have not heard
2 "To all the world," to ev - 'ry place,
5 Spir - it of love, with - in - us move:
News of a Lord who loved and came;
Neigh - bors and friends and far - off lands,
Spir - it of truth, in pow'r come down!
Nor known His rec - on - cil - ing word,
Preach the good news - of sav - ing grace;
So shall they hear and find and prove
Nor learned to trust a Sav - ior's name?
Go while the great com - mis - sion stands.
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Move your people to

proclaim His Word to all who are willing to hear it. Strengthen the missionaries around the world and protect them from all harm and danger. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life, sickness, and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Your will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us to trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord Jesus provide for the Guatemala orphanage, the people of Guatemala, and people in need around the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN

Lord Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

LSB 857:1, 2, 4



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.

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✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to be the people who proclaim the salvation that is in Christ alone. Gathered at Your Table, may we receive His blessed body and blood, fully trusting in the promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ our Savior that we may live and respond to the opportunities for service and witness brought to us by the Holy Spirit and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: We are bold to pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(trio)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING

Leader: And you...You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

People: **a people belonging to God,**

Leader: that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2: 9).

Leader: You are called – called to share the Good News of God's plan of salvation, for "the Lord has assigned to each his task." Just as Paul says, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow...the man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his labor.

People: **For we are God's fellow workers."** (1 Cor. 3: 5-9)

Pastor: Go now, to share the message of God's love in the name of the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit!

People: **Amen. We go in the Lord's name to tell the world!**

Please Stand

HYMN

Voices Raised to You We Offer

LSB 795 v.1-3



1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your
 3 Christ, the song of Love in - car - nate, Touch - ing earth with



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts You lend us,
 heav - en's grace, For Your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,



For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 We re - turn to You to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 For Your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

John Davis

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP (10:45)
 IN THE GREAT ROOM. PLEASE JOIN US!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS - Martin Koepke, Bob Kelley, Dick Clark, Emily Forslin Lauth, Carol Rayner, Robert Tessarolo, Joyce Fenelon, Lori & Logan Gross, Lindy Kowalczyk, Jeanette Franchino, Mary Moyer, John Noffze, Walter Jaskiewicz, Ray Skelley, Shar Wyatt, Loren Beck, Joyce Maxfield

Names are kept on the prayer lists for 4 weeks unless the office is notified!

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY - Andrea Sager(Rooksberry), Mark Sheridan (Patti Naughton), Darrin Leist (Susan Charles), Celia Cole & Dennis Bryant (Lili Surber), Mary Jane Vetter, Zach Lowe, Kerrie Wallace (Joni Lowe), Tom Malota (Lydia Krueger), Miranda Curiale, Alexis Fosmer (Judy Volker), Toni Hammer (Roland Leypoldt), Elenita Grijalro, Dom Di Crosta family, Ron & Pam Spering (Cindi Kramer), Paul Meyer & Baby Amelia Smiles (Vicki Ross), Jim Daley (Vicki Williams), Linda Eversole (Carolyn Ohman), Gina Lauth (Loren Drews), Niels Jorgensen family, Judy Iacono (Meredith Bair), Nanette Dolphin (Carolyn Ohman), Michelle Brown, Rene Maurer (Anne Rozite), and those we name in our hearts.

Names are kept on the prayer lists for 4 weeks unless the office is notified!

Please review the prayer lists and let us know if we can remove someone. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK – Helen Johnson, Jan May

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK – Terry & Carol Horn, Gary & Christine Brazgel

GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS - There are 4 ways to give:

ONLINE, BY MAIL, BY PHONE, BY TEXT!

All transactions are secure and confidential. You can make a one-time donation or set-up a regular weekly or monthly donation. If you have difficulty or questions, please email financialsec@marcolutheran.org You can also place your offerings in the offering boxes that are located at the exits.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE: Because we were closed last week, we have no numbers as far as attendance and contributions.

THANK YOU TO OUR HELPFUL SERVANTS THIS WEEK!

Worship Leader: Patti Naughton
Lay Minister: Greg Waltrip
Communion Assistant: Diane Waltrip, Gwen Nestaval
Head Usher: Ron Lisch
Ushers: Bob & Ruth Cory
Transporters: Ruth Cory, Diane Waltrip

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 28 – MAY 10, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 9:30 WORSHIP w/ GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM PRESENTATION 10:45 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	29 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 2:00 CHAIR YOGA	30 6:30 BSF MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 BSF WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	MAY 1	2 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 2:00 CHAIR YOGA	3 12:30 BRIDGE	4
5 9:30 WORSHIP	6 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 2:00 CHAIR YOGA	7 6:30 BSF MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 BSF WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	8	9 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 2:00 CHAIR YOGA	10 12:30 BRIDGE	11
12 ASCENSION SUNDAY 9:30 WORSHIP	13 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 2:00 CHAIR YOGA 4:00 COUNCIL MEETING	14 6:30 BSF MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:30 BSF WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	15 11:00 LUNCH WITH FRIENDS 5:30 BOOK CLUB	16 12:30 GENTLE YOGA 1:30 WOMEN OF MARCO 2:00 CHAIR YOGA	17 12:30 BRIDGE	10

