



May 16, 2021

# Seventh Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday Order of Service

## Welcome

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark’s United Methodist or whether you’re visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at **301.776.8885** | [emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com) | Pastor Matthews directly (**443.257.2730** | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)). Our doors are always open, welcome.

**Gathering Song**..... “**Sweet, Sweet Spirit**” (*Hymnal, #334*)  
*(sing along with Doris Akers)*

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Greeting/Call to Worship**..... **Cynthia**

Leader: We come today with many concerns on our minds.

**Gemma: We hand them over to you, Lord.**

Leader: We come today with many prayers on our hearts.

**Gemma: We hand them over to you, Lord.**

Leader: We come today with many burdens on our shoulders.

**Gemma: We hand them over to you, Lord.**

Leader: We Come Leaning and Depending on You Lord.

**Hymn of Praise** ..... **“What A Fellowship”**  
(sing along with Chicago Mass Choir)

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance**

Dear Lord, we know you to be our all, but there are times when the all of life can become too much. In such moments, we are tempted to give up. Yet, we know too that you impart strength and courage. Do for us what we have not done for others, and in our undeserved soul, help us to see that life does not have to be what it is at this moment in time. Give us strength and courage and we will never forget to praise and thank you. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (song by Andrea Bocelli)

### **The Invocation**

**Song of Meditation** ..... **“How Excellent”**  
(featuring Mississippi Mass Choir)

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Chantel**  
(Acts 1:15–17, 21–26, Common English Bible)

### **A replacement for Judas**

<sup>15</sup> During this time, the family of believers was a company of about one hundred twenty persons. Peter stood among them and said, <sup>16</sup> “Brothers and sisters, the scripture that the Holy Spirit announced beforehand through David had to be fulfilled. This was the scripture concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> This happened even though he was one of us and received a share of this ministry.”

<sup>21</sup> “Therefore, we must select one of those who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord Jesus lived among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when Jesus was taken from us. This person must become along with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup> So they nominated two: Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

<sup>24</sup> They prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s deepest thoughts and desires. Show us clearly which one you have chosen from among these two <sup>25</sup> to take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup> When they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was added to the eleven apostles.

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Mr. Gregg**  
(1 John 5:9–13, Common English Bible)

<sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, God’s testimony is greater, because this is what God testified: he has testified about his Son. <sup>10</sup> The one who believes in God’s Son has the testimony within; the one who doesn’t believe God has made God a liar, because that one has not believed the testimony that God gave about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn’t have God’s Son does not have life.

**Confidence in prayer**

<sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of God’s Son so that you can know that you have eternal life.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Gemma**  
(Luke 24:36b–48, Common English Bible)

**Jesus appears to the disciples**

<sup>36</sup> While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>37</sup> They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

<sup>38</sup> He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” <sup>40</sup> As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of baked fish. <sup>43</sup> Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

<sup>44</sup> Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

**Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

**The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ 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 Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried:  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father”**

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.**

**Hymn of Preparation — “Just A Closer Walk With Thee”** *(featuring Hazel Miller)*

**Inspirational Message** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

*“What A Difference A Week (Year) Makes”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — “Changed”** *(featuring Tramaine Hawkins)*

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

# Announcements

## Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**“A FRESH START (NOW)”** — Any person who would like to participate or discuss further the Ministry areas presented last week, please contact either Jaime, Nena or Rev. Matthews. **We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.**

**ATTENTION:** Plans are being made to hold our first in-person **OUT-DOOR** Worship Service at St. Mark’s UMC on **Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**, barring inclement weather. Members are requested to call or e-mail the church office to register in preparation for the service. Communion elements will be distributed on Saturday, June 5, 2021 (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) for those not planning to attend the service. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed, and additional details will be announced later.

**Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience.** Call-in Information: **712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)**

**“MIRACULOUS — Pastor and Wife’s Account of Illness and Recovery from COVID-19” – order your copy today:** Email or text your name and address to Sandy Johnson (sandra7767@msn.com or 410.530.0399). This information will be forwarded to Rev. DeFord. The book will be mailed to you, upon receiving, you should send your payment of **\$18.00** (cost of book, sales tax, and shipping fee) to Rev. George F. DeFord.

**Note from Finance:** First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church **(601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)**
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarks/md>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...  
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

***Celebration of Life for Bria Wilson***

*Viewing: Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (2:00–6:00 p.m.)*

*Celebration of Life: Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> (Viewing: 10:00 a.m., Funeral: 11:00 a.m.)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

***Celebration of Life for Dianne Cobb***

*Viewing: Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> (4:00–8:00 p.m.)*

*Celebration of Life: Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> (Viewing: 10:00 a.m., Funeral: 11:00 a.m.)*

*Both services at: Howell Funeral Home | 10220 Guilford Road, Jessup, MD*

Sonja Smith, Noble (BeBe) Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley’s brothers), Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

**Eunice Dumas**

1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764