

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkslmd@gmail.com)*



*"We come together at St. Mark's to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world."*

***Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor***

*443.257.2730 | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)*

***Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus***

***Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling***

*Baltimore/Washington Conference*

***Rev. Sarah Schlieckert***

*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, June 2, 2024*

*Second Sunday After Pentecost  
Holy Communion*

*Ushers: Deborah Harper and Sharon Thomas*

*Order of Service*

*Sister Erica Roy, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Elder Kelvin Brown**

**Lighting of the Candles ..... Usher**

**Gathering Song..... St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

*“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”*

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 Spirit, 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 ..... Sister Erica Roy**

Leader: God, we come entering into a brand new moment of worship this moment.

**People: We come with deep gratitude and wide expectations.**

Leader: Thank you for dreaming this day into being.

**People: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.**

Leader: You know when I sit down and when I rise up.

**People: You discern my thoughts from faraway.**

Leader: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, O Lord.

**ALL: Thank you for knowing us and making yourself known to us in our worship today.**

**Hymn of Praise.....St. Mark's Choir / Congregation**

## *“My Hope Built”*

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

### ***Refrain:***

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***(Refrain)***
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***(Refrain)***
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! ***(Refrain)***

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(Unison)***

Dear God, though we know you are our all, there are times when the all of life is too much for us. 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 your undeserved graciousness, help us to see that life does not have to be what it is. Grant us in grace to receive such astonishing and wondrous blessings. And, with our new strength and courage, we will not forget to say thank you.. **Amen.**

**The Invocation.....Sister Erica Roy**  
**Song of Meditation ..... St. Mark's Choir**

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

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and the Word proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace.

### **Scripture Reading #1** .....**Sister Erica Roy** (*1 Samuel 3:1–20, Common English Bible*)

**3** Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord’s word was rare at that time, and visions weren’t widely known.

**2** One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. **3** God’s lamp hadn’t gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord’s temple, where God’s chest was.

**4** The Lord called to Samuel. “I’m here,” he said.

**5** Samuel hurried to Eli and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied. “Go lie down.” So he did.

**6** Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

“I didn’t call, my son,” Eli replied. “Go and lie down.”

(**7** Now Samuel didn’t yet know the Lord, and the Lord’s word hadn’t yet been revealed to him.)

**8** A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, “I’m here. You called me?”

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. **9** So Eli said to Samuel, “Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down where he’d been.

**10** Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, “Samuel, Samuel!”

Samuel said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

**11** The Lord said to Samuel, “I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! **12** On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it! **13** I told him that I would punish his

family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn't stop them. <sup>14</sup> Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the Lord's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

<sup>17</sup> "What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." <sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

"He is the Lord," Eli said. "He will do as he pleases."

<sup>19</sup> So Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. <sup>20</sup> All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the Lord's prophet.

**Scripture Reading #2** .....**Sister Erica Roy**  
(*1 Thessalonians 2:1-10, Common English Bible*)

**2** As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time. <sup>2</sup> On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know. <sup>3</sup> Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. <sup>4</sup> Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. <sup>5</sup> As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. <sup>6</sup> We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others—<sup>7</sup> although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup> We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much. <sup>9</sup> You remember, brothers and sisters, our efforts and hard work. We preached God's good news to you, while we worked night and day so we wouldn't be a burden on any of you. <sup>10</sup> You and

God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were toward you believers.

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements .....Sister Erica Roy**

**Blessing of the Offering .....Sister Erica Roy**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Erica Roy**  
*(Mark 2:23—3:6, Common English Bible)*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. As the disciples made their way, they were picking the heads of wheat. <sup>24</sup> The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look! Why are they breaking the Sabbath law?”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? <sup>26</sup> During the time when Abiathar was high priest, David went into God’s house and ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. He also gave bread to those who were with him.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said, “The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren’t created for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> This is why the Human One<sup>[a]</sup> is Lord even over the Sabbath.”

### **Healing on the Sabbath**

**3** Jesus returned to the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. <sup>2</sup> Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup> He said to the man with the withered hand, “Step up where people can see you.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to them, “Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they said nothing. <sup>5</sup> Looking around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their unyielding hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he did, and his hand was made healthy. <sup>6</sup> At that, the Pharisees got together with the supporters of Herod to plan how to destroy Jesus.

**The Doxology– “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**  
(*Hymnal, #95*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all  
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Preparation** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

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

*“Living Godly Models”*

*“YOU and God are witnesses of how holy, just, and blameless we were  
toward you believers”. 1 Thessalonians 2:10 (CEB)*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Invitation / Altar Call** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Invitation Selection**

*The Great Thanksgiving for the  
Season After Pentecost*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to  
give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of  
life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love  
remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made  
covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your  
prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like  
waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation

shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.



By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*St. Mark's Choir*)

**Breaking the Bread**

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

**Prayer**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

**Dismissal With Blessing**

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

**Benediction**



**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal (Men only)**

**Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Men's Day — "Men of Faith: Building a Legacy". Men's Day Sacrificial Offering: Men—\$150.00; Women—\$75.00**

**Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> (7:30 p.m.) — Farewell Committee Zoom meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>;  
Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

*This is not goodbye,  
This is not Farewell...* **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> (10:00 a.m.)— Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell.** The theme is **"I'm Done – Stick A Fork In It!"** — *Well done, good and faithful servant!* A barbeque is being planned to feature some of Pastor Matthew's favorite foods. Please come out and share this celebration with us.

**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 and place it in church mailbox
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/stmarkslmd>)

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 needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

Rachel Hughes, Rico Harper, Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, Joseph Ballard, Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

**Eunice Dumas**  
1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**  
9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

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

**Grace Elaine Catchings**  
15505 Clayburn Drive  
Laurel, MD 20707  
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

**Ruth Miller**  
1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560