

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
September 20, 2026

LITURGY AT SAINT MARK'S



HOLY EUCHARIST

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

ELW 3

A time of silence is kept in preparation for worship. People may move about the worship space at any time to light candles at the prayer stations in the front or to write prayer petitions on the cards provided, placing them in the prayer walls at the back. Please silence cell phones.

PRELUDE

Allegro

Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The assembly stands.

LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.

We praise you, O God:
We praise you, O God.

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark,
we bless you, O God:
We bless you, O God.

For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning,
we exalt you, O God:
We exalt you, O God.

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers,
for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
we magnify you, O God:
We magnify you, O God.

For the sun to rule the day,
for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
we extol you, O God:
We extol you, O God.

For the fish in the sea,
for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God:
We glorify you, O God.

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth,
we adore you, O God:
We adore you, O God.

For humankind made in your image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
we worship you, O God:
We worship you, O God.

Bless us, your creatures.
Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
We praise you, O God:
We praise you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.
Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross at the entrance of the nave.

GATHERING HYMN

Earth and All Stars! (st. 1, 4-5)

ELW 731

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

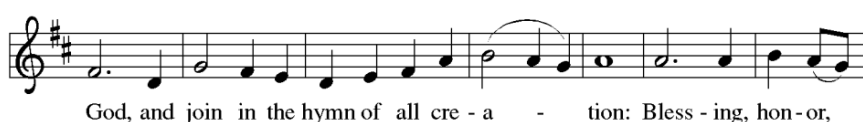
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain*Refrain**Refrain*



Almighty and eternal God,
you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities,
grant us your merciful judgment,
and train us to embody the generosity of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and friend.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still

in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Light (st. 1-2)

ELW 688

The assembly stands.

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 INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community, especially those who work with Shalom in discerning a way forward. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers. You may also send your offering to us by mail or go to our website, www.stmarks-spokane.org, and click on the "offering/giving" tab to make an offering digitally. Or you can text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 and you will receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.



The assembly stands. The table is set.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

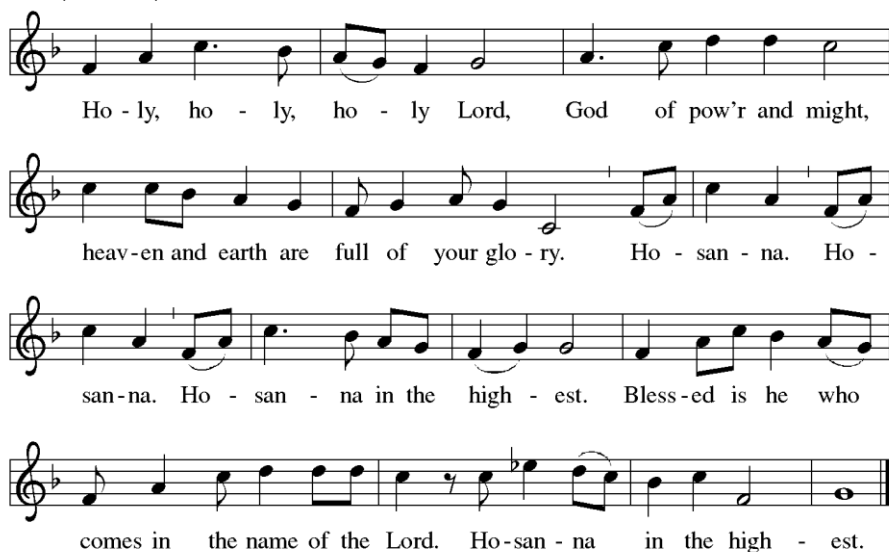
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving through Christ, God's eternal Word and Wisdom, through whom all things were made. This preface draws upon Job's vivid, maternal image of God attending creation's birth and swaddling the newborn sea with clouds (Job 38:4-11). It also joins John's proclamation of Christ as the eternal Word (John 1:1-3) with the biblical portrait of divine Wisdom at work in creation (Wisdom 9:1-2). We therefore give thanks not to a generic creator, but to the Triune God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues the thanksgiving including praise for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise.

We invite you to respond with these acclamations during the Thanksgiving:

The earth is full of your glory!

The thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

INVITATION

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures.
Come and share.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ, our Host, welcomes all to the table—where we feast on his promise of forgiveness and life in the bread and wine. Those wishing to receive communion come up the center aisle to the altar rail. If you desire a gluten-free option, please take a wafer from the paten on the small table at the head of the center aisle. Kneel or stand at the rail, filling in from the center aisle to the sides. A communion minister will offer you bread, and you may choose either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Place your empty glass in the tray located at a side aisle before returning to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, communion can be brought to you in your pew. Simply let an usher know.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond: **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The assembly stands.

Let us pray.

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of all creation shower blessings and favor upon you.
Amen!

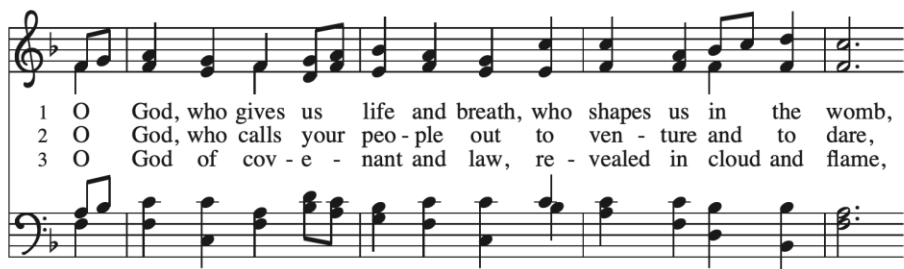
May the God of the harvest grace your table with divine presence
and fill you with peace.
Amen!

May the God of salvation guide you all your days until you come into
the joys of the New Creation.
Amen!

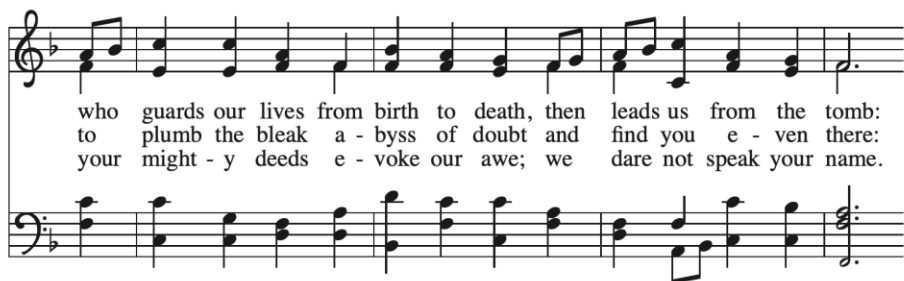
And may almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now
and forever.
Amen!

SENDING HYMN

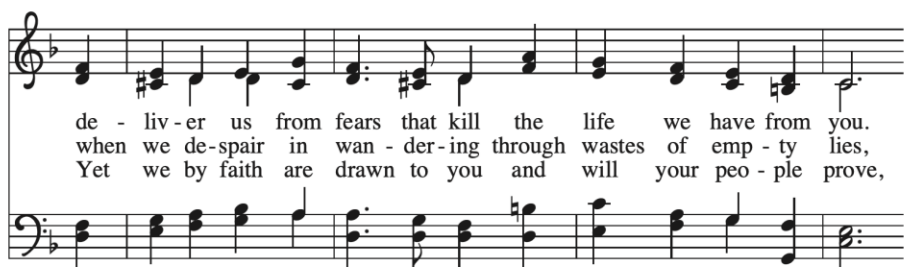
O God, Who Gives Us Life



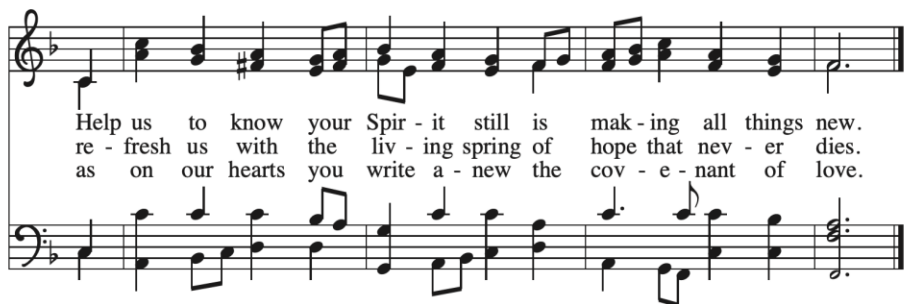
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

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The assembly turns to face the cross as we are dismissed to love and serve.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Sonata

Arr. Wolff

• **Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** •

316 E 24th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203

509-747-6677

stmarks-spokane.org

Worship attendance cards are located in the pews.

After listing all attendees (members and visitors) the card may be placed in the offering plate.

ST. MARK'S STAFF

Pastors	Edwin Weber Gretchen Olson
Faith Formation Minister	Kendra Chapman
Parish Administrator	Jane Somers
Communication Coordinator	Loris Stupel
Office Coordinator	Susan Hagen
Volunteer Coordinator	Gina Bloom
Pastoral Assistant/Visitation	Tom Fallquist
Youth Program Leaders	Calvin Moore Rachel Peterson
Live Stream/Sound Coordinator	Randy Darst
Director of Music/Organ	Carol Miyamoto
Director of Music/Choral	Ann Benson
Sexton	Gib Dominguez

Congregation Council

Council President: Kate Bassett

Council Members: Ben Baker, Patti Berg, Sue Connelly, Janet Farness, Ira Gardner Jr, Theron Miller, Susan Pine, Angela Sams, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers, Dave Troyke.

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