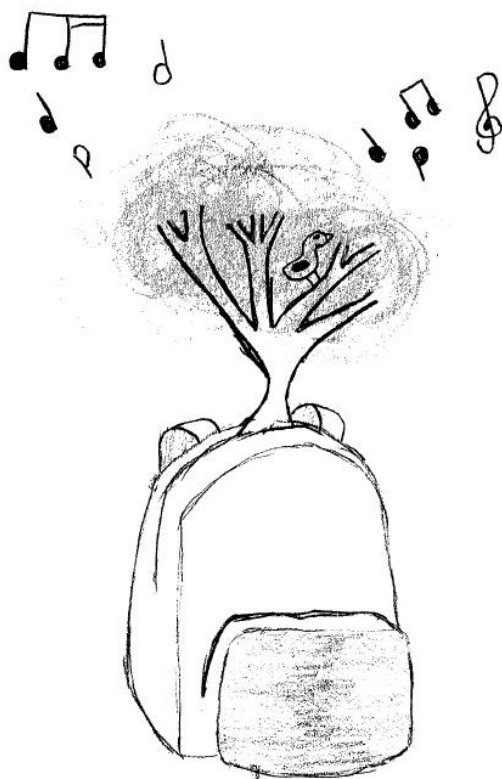


St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
September 7, 2025



BLESSING of the BACKPACKS

Art by: Rue B.



# LITURGY AT SAINT MARK'S



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**HOLY EUCHARIST**  
September 7, 2025

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
ELW 3

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## **PRELUDE**

*Jubilate Deo*

Silver

*A time of silence is kept in preparation for worship. Please silence cell phones.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING**

*The assembly stands.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,  
**we can be stiff-necked people.**  
**We grumble to others rather than**  
**dwelling in gratitude for your grace.**  
**We sometimes turn away from**  
**those who are poor or in need.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**  
**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless,  
God remains faithful.  
In the name of ✝ Jesus,  
your sins are forgiven!  
Live in the joy and love of God's grace.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*God Is Here*

**ELW 526**

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

## **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. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Gracious God,  
 thank you that in Jesus,  
 you extended the blessing of Abraham  
 to all people through faith.  
 Guide us by your spirit  
 to live as your covenant people,  
 bearing fruit and trusting in your mercy  
 through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-8

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding, and I will be their God.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Galatians 3:6-14

A reading from Galatians.

<sup>6</sup> Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” <sup>7</sup> so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the scripture, foreseeing that God would reckon as righteous the gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the gentiles shall be blessed in you.” <sup>9</sup> For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” <sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is reckoned as righteous before God by the law, for “the one who is righteous will live by faith.”

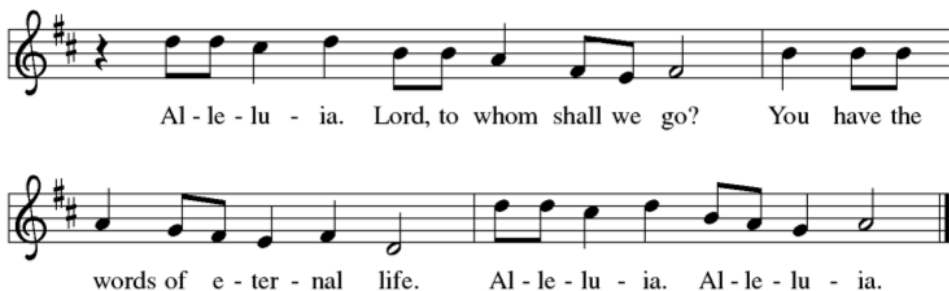
<sup>12</sup> But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” <sup>14</sup> in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*





## **GOSPEL: John 15:4-11,16-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The assembly stands.*

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church. Guide us to follow in your ways, that your church would be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Stir us to cherish and nurture it. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities. Shield coastlands from rising seas.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly. Grow in them compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). Bring healing through your mysterious ways, including through the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Unite us in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ. Deepen our support of one another. Transform lives through the sharing of our faith.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your mercy, that they would have peace and rest in your embrace.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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](http://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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves do not have double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 with the Preface for the day.*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## 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.*

## **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**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

## LAMB OF GOD



## COMMUNION

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

Let us pray.

O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share  
our selves and our possessions  
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## INSTALLATION & BLESSING OF GODLY PLAY TEACHERS

(10:45 service)

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its  
maker's handiwork.

**Teach us your ways, O God.**

Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot  
compare with wisdom.

**Teach us your ways, O God.**

Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may  
be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Teach us your ways, O God.**

*The rite concludes with a prayer of blessing.*

# SENDING

*The assembly stands.*

## BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Jesus Loves Me*

ELW 595

*The assembly turns to face the cross as we are dismissed into the world for service.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

from "Twelve Pieces"

Wesley



• **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
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
Alleluia Choir/Godly Play Coordinator	Kendra Chapman
Director of Music/Organ	Carol Miyamoto
Director of Music/Choral	Ann Benson
Sexton	Gib Dominguez

**Congregation Council**

Council President: Ira Gardner, Jr.

Council Members: Ben Baker, Kate Bassett, Patti Berg, Janet Farness, Mary Hoenecke, Theron Miller, Michelle Phelan, Susan Pine, Michael Stolp, Jane Summers, Sue Connolly.

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