

LITURGY AT

# SAINT MARK'S

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Creation in Christ Sunday

September 5 & 6, 2026

SETTING: WOV 4

Light of Christ

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*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.*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Ciacona in f*

Pachelbel

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

*The assembly stands.*

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 SONG

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

ELW 876

## GREETING

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



♩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and





## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
in Christ you created all the worlds, and your  
Spirit breathes life into the universe.

We praise you for your wondrous creation.

Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light,  
and direct our lives to the care of this good earth,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>7</sup> So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel;  
whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them  
warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall  
surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from

their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*Ubi caritas et amor / Where True Charity and Love Abide (3x)*

*This short song comes from the ecumenical community of Taizé, France. We sing it several times so that its words may settle into our hearts and our singing may become prayer. It may be sung in English or in the church's ancient universal language of Latin.*

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us,

O God, source of life,

**Your mercy is great.**

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant healing to all on earth that has been despoiled. Hear us, O God, our creator,

**Your mercy is great.**

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need; that legislators strive in all things for the common good; and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold,

**Your mercy is great.**

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit all, and that our children learn respect for the power of nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian,

**Your mercy is great.**

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God, our healer,

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you Peter Claver\* and for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. We pray for the family of Ella Olson at the time of her death. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end,

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Peter Claver, priest and missionary to Colombia** (†1654) Born in Spain, Peter Claver became a Jesuit priest and served in Cartagena, in present-day Colombia, a major port of the transatlantic slave trade. There he ministered among enslaved Africans arriving in terrible conditions, bringing food, medicine, and pastoral care, while learning what he could of their languages in order to serve them more faithfully. Claver's ministry bore witness to the dignity of those whom society treated as property.

## 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.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

# MEAL

## OFFERING

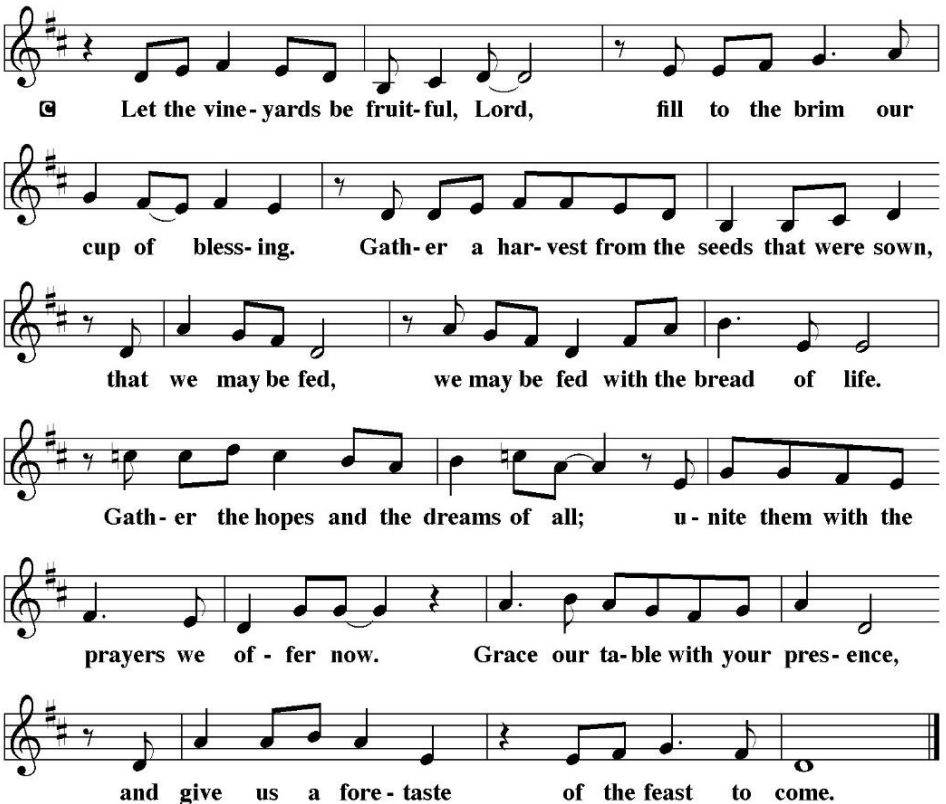
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church within and beyond St. Mark's, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed by the ushers.



You may also send your offering 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 text the word "give" to 509.612.7647 to receive a link to complete this process. Thank you for your generosity.

*The table is set. The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, 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, 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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

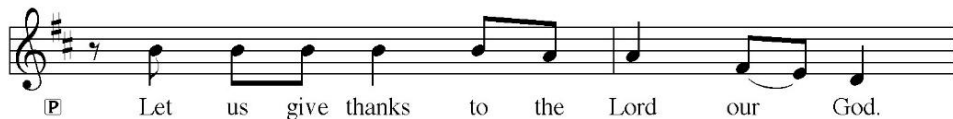
O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.

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



## 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.

The assembly joins the angels' song.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, 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!**

## 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 TO COMMUNION

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

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.**

*After all have returned to their place, the assembly stands. The presiding minister says a table blessing.*

The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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!**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE***Paeon*

Young

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