

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 27, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts,

for God's faithful love endures forever.

We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,

for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.

We place our trust in in God with full confidence,

and so we come to worship with hearts full of praise.

Hymn 382 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart

**1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.**

**Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.**

**2. I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel messenger, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

**3. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling;
oh let me seek thee and oh let me find!**

**4. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to face the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

**5. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heaven descended Dove;
my heart an altar and thy love the flame.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 767 Lord, speak to me

**1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek**

your erring children lost and lone.

**2. Oh lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
oh feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**

**3. Oh teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths that you impart,
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

**4. Oh fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my heart shall overflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**5. Oh use me, Lord, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until at last your face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from you and
your ways. You set a path for us to follow, but we conform
to the behaviours and customs of this world. You offer the
possibility of transformation and new life, but we cling to
our old patterns and habits. You give each of us gifts to use
for the building of your kingdom, but we squander these
gifts and use them for self-gain. Forgive our foolishness and
return us to your paths of truth and love.**

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 633 Who would true valour see

**1. Who would true valour see
let them come hither:
here's one will constant be
come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
shall make me once relent
my first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.**

**2. Who so beset me round
with dismal stories
do but themselves confound:
my strength the more is.
No foes shall stay my might;
though I with giants fight,
but I will have the right
to be a pilgrim.**

**3. Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt my spirit:
I know I at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
Fear not what others say;
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 124 p. 575 NT & Psalms

¹What if the Lord had not been on our side?

Let all Israel repeat:

**²What if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us?**

³They would have swallowed us alive
in their burning anger.

**⁴The waters would have engulfed us;
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.**

⁵Yes, the raging waters of their fury
would have overwhelmed our very lives.

**⁶Praise the Lord,
who did not let their teeth tear us apart!**

⁷We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap.

The trap is broken, and we are free!

**⁸Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 1.8-2.10 p. 44 pew Bible

Romans 12.1-8 p. 275 NT & Psalms

Matthew 16.13-20 p. 32 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Gifts

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 442 *Speak, Lord, in the stillness*

**1. Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
speak your word to me;
hushed my heart to listen
in expectancy.**

**2. Speak, O gracious Master,
in this quiet hour;
let me see your face, Lord,
feel your touch of power.**

**3. For the words you give me
they are life indeed;
living bread from heaven,
now my spirit feed.**

**4. Speak, your servant listens,
be not silent, Lord;
let me know your presence;
let your voice be heard.**

**5. Fill me with the knowledge
of your glorious will;
all your own good pleasure
in my life fulfil.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

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

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

**O God, bless what we offer today as well as the time, talent,
and concern we will offer you this week. We trust that, with
your blessing, your Holy Spirit can accomplish more than we
can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.**

Hymn 760 Where cross the crowded ways of life

- 1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.**
- 2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.**
- 3. From tender childhood's helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.**
- 4. The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.**
- 5. O Saviour, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
oh tread the city's streets again;**
- 6. Till human hearts shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.**

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will be with you each hour of every day.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude