

Knox & St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 3, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

We will sing praises for all that God has done.

Let your hearts be joyful!

We will seek God's presence continually.

Call to mind God's wonderful works.

**We will always remember the blessings of God and glorify
God forever!**

Hymn 483 Glorious things of thee are spoken

**1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;**

**One whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for a strong abode.**

**On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?**

**With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayst smile at all thy foes.**

**2. See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.**

**Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.**

**3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear,
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading
light by night and shade by day
daily on the manna feeding
which God gives them when they pray.**

4. Saviour, since of Zion's city

**we, through grace, a part may claim,
let the world deride or pity,
we will glory in thy name.
Fading is all worldly pleasure,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 746 What a friend we have in Jesus

**1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear;
what a privilege to carry
every thing to God in prayer.
Oh what peace we often forfeit,
oh what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

**2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**Faithful and forgiving God, we confess we do not live out
your love and mercy. We cling to old hurts and familiar
habits. We nurse anger and envy. We are often so self-**

absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need. Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and guide us toward who we may become according to your generous grace.

- 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.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 211 Take up your cross

**1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.**

**2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.**

**3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:
for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.**

**4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b p. 552 NT & Psalms

¹Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.
Let the whole world know what he has done.

²**Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.**

Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.

³Exult in his holy name;
rejoice, you who worship the Lord.

⁴**Search for the Lord and for his strength;
continually seek him.**

⁵Remember the wonders he has performed,
his miracles, and the rulings he has given,

⁶**you children of his servant Abraham,
you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

²³Then Israel arrived in Egypt;
Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

²⁴**And the Lord multiplied the people of Israel
until they became too mighty for their enemies.**

²⁵Then he turned the Egyptians against the Israelites,
and they plotted against the Lord's servants.

²⁶**But the Lord sent his servant Moses,
along with Aaron, whom he had chosen.**

Praise the Lord!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 3:1-15 p. 46 pew Bible

Romans 12:9-21 p. 276 NT & Psalms

Matthew 16:21-28 p. 33 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon How are we supposed to behave?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 569 O Jesus, I have promised

**1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;**

be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

2. Oh let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.

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, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving.
Use them to transform the world you love with the mercy
and compassion we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn 677 My faith looks up to Thee

**1. My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine:
now hear me when I pray;
take all my guilt away;
oh let me from this day
be wholly thine.**

**2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh may my love to thee
pure, warm and changeless be,
a living fire.**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness tum to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
oh bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul.**

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