

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 24, 2023**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.

**We will call on God's name and make known God's wonderful works.**

Seek the Lord continually.

**We will watch and listen for signs of God's grace.**

Together let us worship God.

**We will rejoice in God's presence and praise God's holy name.**

**Hymn 103 O Lord, Thou art my God and King**

**1. O Lord, thou art my God and King;  
thee will I magnify and praise:  
I will thee bless and gladly sing  
unto thy holy name always.**

**2. Thee will I bless each day I rise,  
and praise thy name, time without end:  
much to be praised and great God is,  
whose greatness none can comprehend.**

**3. Thy saints shall praise thy glorious name;  
thy mighty acts they shall declare;  
thy wondrous works I will proclaim  
and meditate on them with prayer.**

**4. Thy might shall be by all extolled;  
thy glorious grace I will record;  
with all my strength I will unfold  
thy great and mighty acts, O Lord.**

**5. Thy faithful shall make known the fame  
of thy great goodness and shall bless  
the splendour of thy glorious name,  
praising aloud thy righteousness.**

**Prayer of Praise**      *(minister)*

**Hymn 367 Jesus, the very thought of thee**

**1. Jesus, the very thought of thee**

with sweetness fills my breast,  
but sweeter far thy face to see,  
and in thy presence rest.

2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
nor can the memory find  
a sweeter sound than thy blest name,  
O Saviour dear and kind.

3. O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
to those who fall how kind thou art,  
how good to those who seek!

4. But what to those who find? Ah, this  
nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is  
none but the loved ones know.

5. Jesus, our only joy be thou,  
as thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be thou our glory now  
and through eternity.

### **Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

God, you are the giver of all good gifts, yet we confess that our own generosity is limited. We share what we have, but often reluctantly. We complain about our lot. We compare ourselves to others and see what they have that we lack. We fear running short of things rather than trusting your attention to our needs. Forgive us our worries about tomorrow and give us generous hearts that trust in you.

- 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 39 God of mercy, God of grace**

**1. God of mercy, God of grace,  
show the brightness of your face.  
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine;  
fill your world with light divine,  
and your saving health extend  
unto earth's remotest end.**

**2. Let the people praise you, Lord;  
be by all that live adored.  
Let the nations shout and sing  
glory to their gracious King;  
at your feet their tribute pay,  
and your holy will obey.**

**3. Let the people praise you, Lord;  
earth shall then its fruits afford.  
Unto us your blessing give;  
we to you devoted live,  
all below and all above,  
one in joy and light and love.**

**Responsive Reading Psalm 145:1-8 p. 587 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and King,  
and praise your name forever and ever.

**<sup>2</sup>I will praise you every day;  
yes, I will praise you forever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!  
No one can measure his greatness.

**<sup>4</sup>Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor  
and your wonderful miracles.

**<sup>6</sup>Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;  
I will proclaim your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

*Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

## **Scripture Lessons**

Jonah 3:10-4:11 p. 754 pew Bible

Philippians 1:21-30 p. 341 NT & Psalms

Matthew 20:1-16 p. 38 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon But they don't deserve it**

**Prayers of the People** (*minister*)

**Hymn 670 Amazing grace**

**1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**

**2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**4. The Lord has promised good to me:  
His word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.**

**5. What thanks I owe you, and what love  
a boundless, endless store  
shall echo through the realms above  
when time shall be no more.**

**6. When we've been there a thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than  
when we'd first begun.**

## 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)

**Generous God, you are the source of all good things, of life itself and all that sustains it. Bless the gifts we offer and the gifts of fellow Presbyterians this day. By your Spirit, multiply their impact to support your purposes in the world you love in the name of Christ, our Saviour and Friend. Amen.**

### Hymn 490 God of grace and God of glory

**1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown the ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us,  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to love and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**3. Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**4. Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,**

**pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee,  
that we fail not them nor thee!**

**5. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

### **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**