

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 15, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

We gather in God's holy presence, where God embraces us with grace.

Here God will transform us into disciples.

We glorify God, who yearns for justice for the last and the least.

Here God will write compassion on our hearts.

We give thanks to God for God's persistent love that seeks us out.

**Here God will breathe the Word of Life into our lives, and so
we will praise our God!**

Hymn 659 King of glory, King of peace

**1. King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee,
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast; thou hast spared me.**

**2. Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me,
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.**

**3. Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.**

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)

God of all life and each life, you know all about us, our deepest concerns and our fondest hopes. We confess we are often anxious to see results. We lose patience when we cannot see progress. We blame others rather than seek solutions. Forgive us and help us claim your peace when our hearts are anxious.

- 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 208 In the cross of Christ I glory

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

**2. When the woes of life o’ertake me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
lo! it glows with peace and joy.**

**3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.**

**4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 p. 554 NT & Psalms

¹Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

²Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord?

Who can ever praise him enough?

³There is joy for those who deal justly with others
and always do what is right.

**⁴Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people;
come near and rescue me.**

⁵Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones.

Let me rejoice in the joy of your people;

let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

⁶Like our ancestors, we have sinned.

We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly!

¹⁹The people made a calf at Mount Sinai;

they bowed before an image made of gold.

²⁰They traded their glorious God

for a statue of a grass-eating bull.

²¹They forgot God, their savior,

who had done such great things in Egypt—

**²²such wonderful things in the land of Ham,
such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.**

²³So he declared he would destroy them.

But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the Lord and the people.

He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 32:1-14 p. 70 pew Bible

Philippians 4:1-9 p. 344 NT & Psalms

Matthew 22:1-14 p. 43 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Whose mind? How?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

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.

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, we offer to you part of the abundance your
share with us. Bless our gifts and work through them, so that
others will know your generosity and be touched by your
love through the kindness we can offer in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Hymn 689 Simply trusting every day

1. Simply trusting every day,
trusting through a stormy way,
even when my faith is small,
trusting Jesus, that is all.

Refrain:

Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.

2. Brightly doth his Spirit shine
into this poor heart of mine;
while he leads I cannot fall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.

Refrain:

Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.

3. Singing, if my way be clear,
praying, if the path be drear,
if in danger for him call,

trusting Jesus, that is all.

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

**4. Trusting him while life shall last,
trusting him till earth be past,
till within the jasper wall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

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