

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost – October 29, 2023**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

The Lord our God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

**From everlasting to everlasting God is God, and so we come  
to worship.**

O God, satisfy us every morning with your steadfast love,  
**so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Let us tell of God's glorious power and praise God's holy name.

**We offer God the work of our hands and praise from the  
depths of our hearts. Let us worship God together!**

**Hymn 315 A mighty fortress is our God**

**1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
a refuge never failing,  
our helper sure amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
yet seeks to work us woe  
with craft and power great  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth has not an equal.**

**2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not a Saviour on our side,  
the One of God's own choosing.  
Who is this Saviour, who?  
Christ Jesus living true,  
Lord Sabbaoth by name,  
from age to age the same,  
already wins the battle.**

**3. And though this world, with evil filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
the truth to triumph through us:  
the powers of death and hell  
our God will surely quell:  
their rage we can endure,**

**for look! their doom is sure:  
one little word will fell them.**

**4. That Word above all earthly powers—  
no thanks to them—abiding,  
ensures that all God's gifts are ours,  
through Christ in us residing,  
whose summons rings above  
all good, all earthly love.  
Earth's powers waste away;  
God's word endures always,  
whose reign will last forever.**

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

**Hymn**      **357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

**1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear;  
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds  
and drives away our fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.**

**3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding place,  
my never-failing treasury,  
filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**4. Jesus, my shepherd, guardian, friend,  
my prophet, priest and king,  
my Lord, my life, my way, my end:  
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. How weak the effort of my heart,  
how cold my warmest thought,  
but when I see thee as thou art  
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6. Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath,  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.**

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

**God, gracious and merciful, holy and healing, You know our hearts, the times we have truly loved one another and those times when we merely tolerated each other.**

**You know our minds, the times we have truly focused on you and the times when we pursued our own purposes.**

**You know our stories, the times we have followed you faithfully and the times we went our own way.**

**Forgive our wavering discipleship and half-hearted service, and renew our commitment to live lives marked by your 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 330 O God, our help in ages past**

**1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.**

**2. Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.**

**3. Be fore the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**

**4. A thousand ages in thy sight**

**are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

**5. Time, like an everrolling stream,  
bears all our years away.  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**

**6. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

### **Responsive Reading Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 p. 546 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, through all the generations  
you have been our home!

**<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were born,  
before you gave birth to the earth and the world,  
from beginning to end, you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn people back to dust, saying,  
"Return to dust, you mortals!"

**<sup>4</sup>For you, a thousand years are as a passing day,  
as brief as a few night hours.**

<sup>5</sup>You sweep people away like dreams that disappear.  
They are like grass that springs up in the morning.

**<sup>6</sup>In the morning it blooms and flourishes,  
but by evening it is dry and withered.**

<sup>13</sup>O Lord, come back to us!  
How long will you delay?  
Take pity on your servants!

**<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love,  
so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives.**

<sup>15</sup>Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery!  
Replace the evil years with good.

**<sup>16</sup>Let us, your servants, see you work again;  
let our children see your glory.**

**<sup>17</sup>And may the Lord our God show us his approval  
and make our efforts successful.  
Yes, make our efforts successful!**

## Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 34:1-12      p. 169 pew Bible  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8      p. 350 NT & Psalms  
Matthew 22:34-46      p. 44 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Sermon    Guest Speaker: Okelo Aballa**

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

**Hymn    479    The church's one foundation**

**1. The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are his new creation  
by water and the word;  
from heaven he came and sought us  
that we might ever be  
his living servant people,  
by his own death set free.**

**2. Called forth from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
our charter of salvation,  
one Lord, one faith, one birth,  
one holy name professing  
and at one table fed,  
to one hope we are pressing,  
by Christ's own Spirit led.**

**3. Though with a scornful wonder  
the world sees us oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
But soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

**4. 'Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation  
of peace forevermore;**

till with the vision glorious  
our longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

5. We now on earth have union  
with God the Three-in-One,  
and share, through faith, communion  
with those whose rest is won,  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

### 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 both faithful and fruitful as you embrace each new generation. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining. Keep us faithful in this generation so that the inheritance we have received in Christ will continue in generations yet to come. Amen.

### Hymn      363 All hail the power of Jesus' name

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name;  
let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem to  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

2. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,  
who from his altar call;  
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.

3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,

**ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.**

**4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go, spread your trophies at his feet, and  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of all.**

**5. Let every tribe and every tongue,  
responsive to the call,  
lift high the universal song, and  
crown him, crown him, crown him,  
crown him Lord of 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**