

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

God of all times and places, we gather to worship you.

We turn our eyes to you and rejoice in your presence.

God of all gifts and blessings, we gather to sing your praise.

We turn our eyes to you and marvel at your power and your promise.

God of all might and mercy, we gather to learn how to follow your Son.

We turn our eyes to you and seek the way you have set before us in Christ.

Hymn 81 Unto the hills around

**1. Unto the hills around do I lift up
my longing eyes:**

**oh whence for me shall my salvation come,
from whence arise?**

**From God the Lord doth come my certain aid,
from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.**

**2. He will not suffer that thy foot be moved:
safe shalt thou be.**

**No careless slumber shall his eyelids close,
who keepeth thee.**

**Behold, he sleepeth not, he slumbereth ne'er,
who keepeth Israel in his holy care.**

**3. Jehovah is himself thy keeper true,
thy changeless shade;
Jehovah thy defence on thy right hand
himself hath made,
and thee no sun by day shall ever smite;
no moon shall harm thee in the silent night.**

**4. From every evil shall he keep thy soul,
from every sin:**

**Jehovah shall preserve thy going out,
thy coming in.**

Above thee watching, he whom we adore

shall keep thee henceforth, yea, forevermore.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 298 Glory be to God the Father

**1. Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit,
God almighty, Three-in-One!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
while eternal ages run.**

**2. Glory to the One who loved us,
washed us from each sin and stain;
glory to the One who bought us,
raised us up to serve and reign.
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
to the Lamb that once was slain.**

**3. Glory to the One who loved us,
washed us from each sin and stain;
glory to the One who bought us,
raised us up to serve and reign.
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
to the Lamb that once was slain.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Trusting God, you placed your mission in our hands and gave us gifts to accomplish amazing things in Jesus' name. We confess sometimes we've taken credit for what your love has done. Sometimes we've called our own desires your will. Sometimes we've stepped back and let others carry responsibilities. Forgive us when we've failed to honour your trust in us.

- 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 615 Let saints on earth in concert sing

**1. Let saints on earth in concert sing
with those whose work is done,
for all the servants of our King
in heaven and earth are one.**

**2. One family, we dwell in him,
one church, above, beneath,
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death.**

**3. One army of the living God,
to his command we bow:
part of the host has crossed the flood,
and part is crossing now.**

**4. E'en now to their eternal home
there pass some spirits blest,
while others to the margin come,
waiting their call to rest.**

**5. Jesu, be thou our constant guide;
then, when the word is given,
bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
and bring us safe to heaven.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 123 p. 575 NT & Psalms

¹I lift my eyes to you,

O God, enthroned in heaven.

**²We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy,
just as servants keep their eyes on their master,
as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.**

³Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,

for we have had our fill of contempt.

**⁴We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud
and the contempt of the arrogant.**

Scripture Lessons

Judges 4:1-7

p. 192 pew Bible

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

p. 355 NT & Psalms

Matthew 25:14-30

p. 50 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon **What do we know?**

Prayers of the People *(minister)*

Hymn **489 Help us to help each other, Lord**

**1. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to share;
let each our friendly aid afford
and feel each other's care.**

**2. Up into thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow,
and by thy let sacrifice be led
the fruits of love to show.**

**3. Drawn by the magnet of thy love
let all our hearts agree,
and ever to each other move,
and ever nearer thee.**

**4. This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity,
Oh let us still, we pray, possess
the mind that was in 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)**

**Faithful God, we offer humble thanks today for your
generosity to us through the Church that bears Christ's
name. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty.
Use them to sustain the mission of the Church in ways we**

cannot yet imagine, in a future that you are creating through
Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Hymn 373 Jesus loves me, this I know

Words are not public domain so sing the ones you know best

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