

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 18, 2024
Responsive Call to Worship

Praise God! Give thanks to God from your heart!

Great are the works of our God and we delight in them.

Yes, the works of God's hands are faithful and just;

Holy and awesome is God's name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

So we honour God's name, so that God's praise may endure forever.

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 Sabbath 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 377 Come, children, join to sing

- 1. Come, children, join to sing, –hallelujah, amen—
praise to our Servant King, hallelujah, amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, saved by God’s gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice—hallelujah, amen!**
- 2. Come, lift your hearts on high—hallelujah, amen—
let praises fill the sky—hallelujah, amen!
Christ calls his people friends; lost, outcast he defends
with love that never ends—hallelujah, amen!**
- 3. Loud now our voices raise—hallelujah, amen—
let praises fill the sky—hallelujah, amen!
On heaven’s blessed shore, God’s goodness we’ll adore
singing forevermore, –hallelujah, amen!**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**God of all things, forgive our forgetfulness of what matters
to you. Forgive the sins we know and those we have
forgotten, the sins we have tried to hide and those we were
once proud to commit. Forgive the sins we have done to
please ourselves and the sins we have done to please others.
Heal our lives and our relationships with your mercy, and
bless what we can become through your faithfulness to 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 495 The heavens declare your glory, Lord

1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!

**In every star your wisdom shines,
but when our eyes behold your word,
we read your name in clearer lines.**

**2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise
to all the earth, and never stand,
so when your truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.**

**3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest
till through the world your truth has run,
till Christ has all the nations blest
who see the light or feel the sun.**

**4. Great sun of righteousness, arise
and bless the world with heavenly light!
Your gospel makes the simple wise;
your laws are pure, your judgements right.**

**5. Your noblest wonders here we view
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make your word my guide to heaven.**

Responsive Reading **Psalm 111** **p. 561 NT & Psalms**

¹ Praise the Lord!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
as I meet with his godly people.

² How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!

All who delight in him should ponder them.

³ Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.

His righteousness never fails.

⁴ He causes us to remember his wonderful works.

How gracious and merciful is our Lord!

⁵ He gives food to those who fear him;
he always remembers his covenant.

**⁶ He has shown his great power to his people
by giving them the lands of other nations.**

⁷ All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.

**⁸ They are forever true,
to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.**

⁹ He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!

**¹⁰ Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom.
All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom.
Praise him forever!**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

p. 265 pew Bible

Ephesians 5:15-20

p. 337 New Testament & Psalms

John 6:51-58

p. 170 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Oh! So it's wisdom!

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 291 Thou whose almighty word

**1. Thou whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light!**

**2. Saviour who came to bring
on thy redeeming wing**

healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
now to all humankind
let there be light!

3. Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move o'er the waters' face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

4. Blessed and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
let there be light!

Offering & Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

Generous God, we offer you our gifts with thanksgiving,
grateful for all we have received in Christ and in creation.
Bless our lives with wisdom, so that we may live to bring you
glory, and share your love with the world. Amen.

Hymn 581 Pour out your Spirit from on high

1. Pour out your Spirit from on high;
Lord, your assembled servants bless;
graces and gifts to each supply,
and clothe your priests with righteousness.

2. All wisdom, zeal and faith impart,
and strength, with meekness from above,
to bear your people in our heart,
and love each soul with faithful love.

3. To watch and pray and never faint;
by day and night strict guard to keep;
to warn and cheer both sinner, saint,

nourish your lambs and feed your sheep.

**4. Then, when our work is finished here,
in humble hope our charge resign:
when the good Shepherd shall appear,
in you we rest, O Love divine.**

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