

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 8, 2024
Holy Communion

Responsive Call to Worship

Put your confidence in God.

Those who have God as their helper will rejoice.

God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.

So, put your trust in God's goodness.

Let God's reign endure forever! Let us worship God.

Hymn 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation:
my soul, praise God who alone is your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear, sisters and brothers draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**2. Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously
reigning;
hides you with sheltering wings, ever gently sustaining!
Have you not seen how your heart's wishes have been
granted through God's kind ordaining?**

**3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work, who
defends you;
surely God's merciful goodness here daily attends you;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
when in great love God befriends you.**

**4. Praise to the Lord, and with all that is in me adoring,
all who has life and breath, come with glad praises
outpouring!
Let the amen sound from God's people again;
now and forever adoring!**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 1 How blest are they, who, fearing God

**1. How blest are they who, fearing God,
from sin restrain their feet,
who will not with the wicked stand,
and shun the sinner's seat.**

- 2. How blest are they who make God's law
their treasure and delight
and meditate upon that word
with gladness day and night.**
- 3. Their lives are nourished like a tree
set by the river's side;
its leaf is green; its fruit is sure;
so all their works abide.**
- 4. The wicked, like the driven chaff,
are blown across the land;
they shall not gather with the just,
nor in the judgement stand.**
- 5. The Lord will guard the righteous well;
their way to God is known;
the way of sinners, far from God,
shall surely be o'erthrown.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God of mercy, we know you judge the world with an eye for the poor and outcast. We confess we fail to live with the same eye for those on the margins. We have been silent when we should have spoken up, and uncaring in the face of injustice. We have not shown the same generosity to others that you have shown us. Forgive us for putting ourselves first, and help us to serve you with the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.

- 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.**

Hymn 481 Blest be the tie that binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.
2. Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part,
it gives us keenest pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.
5. This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
in perfect friendship we shall live
in God's eternal day.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 125

p. 576 NT & Psalms

¹ Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion;
they will not be defeated but will endure forever.

² **Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people, both now and forever.**

³ The wicked will not rule the land of the godly,
for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong.

⁴ **O Lord, do good to those who are good,
whose hearts are in tune with you.**

⁵ **But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O Lord.
Take them away with those who do evil.**

May Israel have peace!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

Scripture Lessons

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 23-23

p. 529 pew Bible

James 2:1-10, 14-17

p. 397 New Testament with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What is faith?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 480 In Christ there is no east or west

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, companions in the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who loves and serves the one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north,
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

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 call us to reach out to those in need in kindness rather than judgment; and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ's sake, so that our faith in his love will show in the work of the Church that bears his name. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God our Creator, your Holy Spirit swept over the face of the waters like a mighty wind and the world was born full of mystery and wonder. You breathed on the dust and humankind sprang to life, made in your image to share in the dance of life. By your Spirit, you gave us breath and speech, that we might find a voice to sing your praise with all living things. So now, with all your creatures great and small, with your saints before us, beside us and beyond us, we lift our voices to echo the song of creation:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God our Companion in Jesus Christ we have seen your loving face smiling at those on the edge of the crowd, weeping with friends in the depths of despair, inviting little children to draw nearer, offering new possibilities for each precious soul. In this bread and this cup, you hold out new possibilities for each of us, precious as we are.

You have spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and cup, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere. In anticipation of receiving these gifts, we proclaim our faith and our hope as we say:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

God our Helper, the Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and cup. May they be for us Christ's

body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and cup become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Lord Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Pouring of the Cup

The Revelation

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

The gifts of God

For the people of God

Thanks be to God

Partaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Cup

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

Triune God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world knowing your love, the strength of your Spirit, as we give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 645 "Follow me," the Master said

**1. "Follow me," the Master said:
we will follow Jesus.**

**By his word and Spirit led,
we will follow Jesus.**

**Still for us he lives to plead,
at the throne will intercede,
offers help in time of need;
we will follow Jesus.**

**2. Should the world and sin oppose,
we will follow Jesus.**

**He is greater than our foes;
we will follow Jesus.**

On his promise we depend;

he will hear us and defend,
help and keep us to the end;
we will follow Jesus.

**3. Though the way may dark appear,
we will follow Jesus.**

**He will make our pathway clear;
we will follow Jesus.**

**In our daily round of care,
as we plead with God in prayer,
with the cross which we must bear,
we will follow Jesus.**

**4. Ever keep that end in view;
we will follow Jesus.**

**All his promises are true;
we will follow Jesus.**

**When this earthly course is run,
and the Master says, "Well done!"
life eternal we have won;
we will follow Jesus.**

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