

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 15, 2024
Responsive Call to Worship

Come, people of God, worship the One who listens to our prayers.

We will worship the One who hears us.

Come, people of God, worship the One who watches over us.

We will worship the One who cares deeply for us all.

Come, people of God, worship the One who offered his life for us.

We will offer thanks and praise to the One who gives us life.

Hymn 9 God's law is perfect

**1. God's law is perfect and converts
the soul in sin that lies:**

**God's testimony is most sure
and makes the simple wise.**

**2. The statutes of the Lord are right
and do rejoice the heart:**

**the Lord's command is pure, and doth
light to the eyes impart.**

**3. Unspotted is the fear of God
and ever doth endure:**

**the judgements of the Lord are true
together, right and sure.**

**4. They more than gold, yea much fine gold,
to be desired are**

**than honey, honey from the comb
that droppeth, sweeter far.**

**5. Moreover, they thy servants warn
how they their life should frame:**

**a great reward provided is
for them that keep the same.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 333 I sing the almighty power of God

**1. I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.**

I sing the wisdom that ordained

**the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at Gods command,
and all the stars obey.**

**2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eyes,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the skies!**

**3. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere I could be,
thou, God, art present there.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God of time and eternity, we confess that we have long memories, especially for moments we resent or regret. Each week we seek your forgiveness for our mistakes, but we confess we do not forgive others so faithfully. Sometimes we seek opportunity to even the score. Confront us with your mercy, O God, and open our hearts to its cleansing power.

- 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 368 Let Christian faith and hope dispel

- 1. Let Christian faith and hope dispel
the fears of guilt and woe;
the Lord Almighty is our friend,
and who can prove a foe?**
- 2. The Saviour died, but rose again
triumphant from the grave,
and pleads our cause at God's right hand,
omnipotent to save.**
- 3. Who then can e'er divide us more
from Jesus' saving love,
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above?**
- 4. Let troubles rise and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall;
through Christ all dangers we'll defy,
and more than conquer all.**
- 5. Nor death, nor life, nor earth, nor hell,
nor time's destroying sway
can e'er erase us from his heart,
or make his love decay.**
- 6. Each future period that will bless
as it has blessed the past;
Christ loved us from the first of time;
Christ loves us to the last.**

Responsive Reading**Psalm 19****p. 470 NT & Psalms**

¹ The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

**² Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.**

³ They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

**⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.**

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

⁵ It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

**⁶ The sun rises at one end of the heavens
and follows its course to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.**

⁷ The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

**⁸ The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

⁹ Reverence for the Lord is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;
each one is fair.

**¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.
They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.**

¹¹ They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

**¹² How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

**¹⁴ May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Proverbs 1:20-33

p. 511 pew Bible

James 3:1-12

p. 398 New Testament with Psalms

Mark 8:27-38

p. 77 New Testament with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Wisdom and self-control

Prayers of the People (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.**

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)

O God, we often pray that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts would be acceptable to you. We add the offering of these gifts and our lives in the hope that they are also acceptable to you. May they be evidence of our desire to follow Jesus. Amen.

Hymn 803 Come, ye thankful people, come

**1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.**

**Come, to God's own temple, come:
raise the song of harvest home.**

**2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**3. For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away,
give the angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in God's storehouse evermore.**

**4. Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home:
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come:
raise the glorious harvest home.**

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