

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 22, 2024
Responsive Call to Worship

From sunrise to sunset,

Let us praise God's holy name.

With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young,

Let us praise God's holy name.

In our work and in our homes,

Let us praise God's holy name.

Let us praise the Lord with our whole hearts!

We will worship God now and always.

Hymn 26 As pants the hart

**1. As pants the hart for cooling streams
when heated in the chase,
so longs my soul, O God, for thee
and thy refreshing grace.**

**2. For thee, my God, the living God,
my thirsty soul doth pine;
oh when shall I behold thy face,
thou majesty divine?**

**3. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Trust God, who will employ
sure aid for thee, and change these sighs
to thankful hymns of joy.**

**4. God of my strength, how long shall I,
like one forgotten, mourn,
forlorn, forsaken and exposed
to my oppressor's scorn?**

**5. Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
praise to thy God, the living God,
thy health's eternal spring.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 407 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;

to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone,
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the high eternal One.

5. Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space,
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God of all creation, you have opened the world around us
and filled it with wonder, but we confess our eyes are not
always open to its harsher realities. Our ears are sometimes
deaf to cries of need. Our minds are often shut to opinions
which differ from our own. Forgive us when we seek
greatness instead of goodness. Forgive us when we miss the
wisdom you intend us to embrace.

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 483 Glorious things of thee are spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Zion, city of our God;

One whose word cannot be broken

formed thee for a strong abode.

On the Rock of Ages founded,

what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded,

thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

2. See the streams of living waters,

springing from eternal love,

well supply thy sons and daughters,

and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river

ever will their thirst assuage?

Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,

never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hovering,

see the cloud and fire appear,

for a glory and a covering,

showing that the Lord is near.

Thus they march, the pillar leading

light by night and shade by day

daily on the manna feeding

which God gives them when they pray.

4. Saviour, since of Zion's city

**we, through grace, a part may claim,
let the world deride or pity,
we will glory in thy name.
Fading is all worldly pleasure,
all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 1 p. 457 NT & Psalms

¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

**² But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.

⁴ But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

⁵ They will be condemned at the time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place among the godly.

**⁶ For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Proverbs 31:10-31 p. 538 pew Bible

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a p. 399 New Testament with Psalms

Mark 9:30-37 p. 79 New Testament with Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon More wisdom

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 411 Stand up and bless the Lord

1. Stand up and bless the Lord;

**God's people now rejoice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.**

**2. Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name,
and praise and magnify?**

**3. Oh for the living flame
from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought.**

**4. God is our strength and song;
now is salvation ours.
God's love in Christ we now proclaim
with all our ransomed powers.**

**5. Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless God's glorious name
henceforth forevermore.**

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)

**Wise and faithful God, we offer our gifts to you in
thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation.
Bless these gifts and the good works in ministry and mission
they will support, so that the world may know your wisdom
and faithfulness through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn 490 God of grace and God of glory

**1. God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown the ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us,
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to love and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**4. Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee,
that we fail not them nor thee!**

**5. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

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