

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church  
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – February 16, 2025**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Let us make melody before our God!**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

**Let us praise God's holy name together.**

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

**For God is gracious and steadfast in mercy.**

A song of praise is always fitting,

**For God heals the broken hearted and binds up our  
wounds.**

**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 Praise (minister)**

### **Hymn 330 O God, our Help in ages past**

- 1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.**
- 2. Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.**
- 3. Be fore the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**
- 4. A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**
- 5. Time, like an everrolling stream,  
bears all our years away.  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**
- 6. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

## **Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**God of life and love, you were able to command us to love one another because you lived and breathed love in all you said and did. Forgive us, when we substitute ideas and words about love for its practice in our daily lives. You call us to be prophetic witnesses of your love. Forgive us, when we justify our lack of action by saying we would not know what words to say to people.**

**- 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 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

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

**<sup>4</sup> But not the wicked!**

**They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.**

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

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

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

## Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 17:5-10 p. 630 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 p. 302 New Living Translation

Luke 6:17-26 p. 112 New Living Translation

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon** How do we do it?

**Prayers of the People** (*minister*)

**Hymn 367** Jesus, the very thought of thee

**1. Jesus, the very thought of thee  
with sweetness fills my breast,  
but sweeter far thy face to see,  
and in thy presence rest.**

**2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
nor can the memory find  
a sweeter sound than thy blest name,  
O Saviour dear and kind.**

**3. O hope of every contrite heart,**

**O joy of all the meek,  
to those who fall how kind thou art,  
how good to those who seek!**

**4. But what to those who find? Ah, this  
nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is  
none but the loved ones know.**

**5. Jesus, our only joy be thou,  
as thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be thou our glory now  
and through eternity.**

### **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)**

**Gracious God, your love for us is revealed in the gifts of  
Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You call us to make these gifts  
evident in our lives. Receive and bless this offering as a  
symbol of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our commitment  
to be prophetic witnesses of your love and mercy. In Jesus'  
name, we pray. Amen.**

#### **Hymn 685 How firm a foundation**

**1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can God say than to you hath been said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2. 'Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3. 'When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee over flow,  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,**

**and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**4. 'When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:  
the flames shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.**

**5. 'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!'**

### **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.**

### **Three-fold Amen**

### **Piano Postlude**