

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – February 23, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

Take delight in the Lord;

For God will give us the desires of our hearts.

Trust in the Lord;

For God will give us security and strength.

Come, let us commit our ways to the Lord.

Let us worship the One who is our refuge in any time of trouble.

Hymn 293 Come, Thou almighty King

**1. Come, thou almighty King;
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

**2. Come, thou incarnate Word;
gird on thy mighty sword;
our prayer attend:
come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness,
on us descend.**

**3. Come, holy Comforter;
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.**

**4. To the great One in Three
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
His sovereign majesty**

may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 257 The strife is o'er, the battle won

**1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Hallelujah!**

**2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Hallelujah!**

**3. The three sad days have quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Hallelujah!**

**4. Lord, from your wounds God's blessings spring:
free us, we pray, from death's dread sting
that we may live, and ever sing:
Hallelujah!**

Prayer of Confession *(congregation)*

Gracious God, you test the mind and search the heart, so you know the thoughts and intentions we keep hidden. Trusting in your wisdom and mercy, we confess the ways we have failed to love one another, the times we looked the other way when someone needed help, and the ways our actions betrayed your goodness. Forgive us for missing opportunities to share your love, and carrying grudges that keep us from offering the forgiveness we hope for. Renew us with your mercy to become more merciful to others we meet, in the example of Christ our Lord.

- 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 689 Simply trusting every day

**1. Simply trusting every day,
trusting through a stormy way,
even when my faith is small,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

**2. Brightly doth his Spirit shine
into this poor heart of mine;
while he leads I cannot fall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

**3. Singing, if my way be clear,
praying, if the path be drear,
if in danger for him call,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

**4. Trusting him while life shall last,
trusting him till earth be past,
till within the jasper wall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Refrain:

**Trusting as the moments fly,
trusting as the days go by,
trusting him whate'er befall,
trusting Jesus, that is all.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 p. 486 NT & Psalms

¹ Don't worry about the wicked
or envy those who do wrong.

**² For like grass, they soon fade away.
Like spring flowers, they soon wither.**

³ Trust in the Lord and do good.
Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

**⁴ Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you your heart's desires.**

⁵ Commit everything you do to the Lord.
Trust him, and he will help you.

**⁶ He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn,
and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday
sun.**

⁷ Be still in the presence of the Lord,
and wait patiently for him to act.
Don't worry about evil people who prosper
or fret about their wicked schemes.

**⁸ Stop being angry!
Turn from your rage!
Do not lose your temper—
it only leads to harm.**

⁹ For the wicked will be destroyed,
but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.

**¹⁰ Soon the wicked will disappear.
Though you look for them, they will be gone.**

¹¹ The lowly will possess the land
and will live in peace and prosperity.

³⁹ The Lord rescues the godly;

he is their fortress in times of trouble.
⁴⁰ The Lord helps them,
rescuing them from the wicked.
He saves them,
and they find shelter in him.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 45:3–11, 15 p. 39 pew Bible

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 p. 304 New Living Translation

Luke 6:27–38 p. 113 New Living Translation

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Some things are hard

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 258 Thine be the glory

**1. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death has lost its sting.**

Refrain:

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**3. No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, thru thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain:

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

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)

God of generous love, we bring our gifts with grateful hearts, for we have received so much through your kindness. Bless our gifts and use them to touch lives in situations we cannot even imagine with your love. Make us a blessing in our community for the sake of Christ, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

Hymn 374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

- 1. Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.**
- 2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
and bids our sorrows cease:
'tis music in the sinner's ears;
'tis life and health and peace.**
- 3. He speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.**
- 4. Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy.**
- 5. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.**

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