

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 11, 2025**

Responsive Call to Worship

With all those in heaven and on earth, let us say together:

**Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!**

Let us praise God with joyful hearts:

**We come before the throne of God to worship day and
night.**

Called together by the Holy Spirit, let us rejoice and sing:

**We will hunger and thirst no more; Christ brings us eternal
life.**

Hymn 606 Ye holy angels bright

**1. Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.**

**2. Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold the Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.**

**3. Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take all God gives
through good or ill,
praise our God still
who ever lives.**

4. My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er God send,
be filled with praise.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast!"
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink and live!"
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that lifegiving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright?"
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

Merciful God. When we fall, you lift us, when we fail
you restore us, when we are wounded, you nurse us,

when we grieve, you weep with us. We, your children, praise you.

And still, we have failed to love as you do, we have abused our bodies and those of others, we have filled our minds with selfish dreams, and violent plans, we have made our hearts cold and empty of compassion, we have forgotten our spirits and distorted your image within us. We are part of a culture which disdains women, especially Indigenous women and women of colour. Forgive us.

- 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 703 Happy the home when God is there

1. Happy the home when God is there,
and love fills every breast,
where one their wish, and one their prayer,
and one their heavenly rest.

2. Happy the home where Jesus' name
is sweet in every ear,
where children early sing his fame,
and parents hold him dear.

3. Happy the home where prayer is heard
and praise is quick to rise,
where parents love the sacred word
that makes the simple wise.

4. Lord, let us in our home agree

**This blessed peace to gain;
unite our hearts in love to Thee,
And love to all will reign.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 23 p. 474 NT & Psalms

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

**²He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.**

³He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

**⁴Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.

**⁶Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord
forever.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Acts 9:36-43 p. 218 NT & Psalms

Revelation 7:9-17 p. 434 NT & Psalms

John 10:22-30 p. 179 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Are there women in the Bible?

Prayers of the People (*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.

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, we thank you for all we have received
from you which brings us hope and joy. Bless the gifts
we bring. May they help to establish your reign in the
world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus
Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 161 What child is this

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,

on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

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