

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 18, 2025**

Responsive Call to Worship

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

Praise the Lord from the earth!

Praise the Lord, all God's angels!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of
the earth!**

Praise the Lord, all God's host!

**Young men and women alike, old and young together! Come
let us worship God!**

Hymn 434 For the beauty of the earth

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

5. For each perfect gift of thine,
to the earth so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 749 Be still, my soul

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future wisely, as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the voice that ruled them here on earth below.

3. Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shalt thou better know God's love, God's heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all death takes away.

4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

Jesus calls us to love one another as we are loved and
tells us the world will know we are Jesus' followers
because of the love that we have for one another. We
confess to you we have not always loved, or even liked,
one another. We have not loved others with the love

Christ has for us. We confess to you that the world has not learned to recognize us by our love.

- 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 313 Oh worship the king

**1. Oh worship the King, all glorious above;
oh gratefully sing God's power and God's love,
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**2. Oh tell of God's might, oh sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.**

**3. The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.**

**5. O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy ransomed creation, in glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 148 p. 590 NT & Psalms

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise him from the skies!

²Praise him, all his angels!

Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

³Praise him, sun and moon!

Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

⁴Praise him, skies above!

Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

⁵Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,

for he issued his command, and they came into being.

⁶He set them in place forever and ever.

His decree will never be revoked.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,

you creatures of the ocean depths,

⁸fire and hail, snow and clouds,

wind and weather that obey him,

⁹mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰wild animals and all livestock,

small scurrying animals and birds,

¹¹kings of the earth and all people,

rulers and judges of the earth,

¹²young men and young women,

old men and children.

¹³Let them all praise the name of the Lord.

For his name is very great;

his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

¹⁴He has made his people strong,

honoring his faithful ones—

the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Acts 11:1-18

p. 221 NT & Psalms

Revelation 21:1-6

p. 451 NT & Psalms

John 13:31-35

p. 186 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon How do you know that?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 209 O Love that wilt not let me go

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze, its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

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, bless these gifts and our lives, we pray.
May they be used to glorify you through our obedience
to Jesus' commandment to love one another as he has
loved us. Amen.

Hymn 760 Where cross the crowded ways of life

**1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.**

**2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.**

**3. From tender childhood's helplessness,
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.**

**4. The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.**

**5. O Saviour, from the mountain side,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide,
oh tread the city's streets again;**

**6. Till human hearts shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above,
shall come the city of our God.**

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