

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 27, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

We come before God with thanks and praise.

We will praise God for God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

We bow before God in worship.

We will worship God, for the glory of the Lord is great.

We lift up our prayers to God with confidence.

We have faith that God answers our prayers and increases our strength.

Hymn 410 Joyful, joyful we adore you

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**2. All your works with joy surround you;
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
join to praise you joyfully.**

**3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
God Creator, Christ our Saviour,
all are yours who live in love.
Teach us how to love our neighbour,
Lift us to your joy above.**

4. Morning stars, awake the chorus,

mortals join in every part,
for what joy is set before us
as Christ's love joins heart to heart!
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

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*)

Ever faithful God, how quickly we can forget the gifts
we have received from your grace; instead of giving
thanks, we ask for more. We can complain about what

we lack and fail to trust your generosity. We can refuse others the forgiveness we seek for ourselves.

Forgive us, O God. Transform our hearts and reshape our desires to reflect your goodness in the way we live.

- 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 457 Now thank we all our God

**1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**2. Oh may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son**

**and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 138 p. 582 NT & Psalms

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will sing your praises before the gods.

**²I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.
I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;
for your promises are backed
by all the honor of your name.**

³As soon as I pray, you answer me;
you encourage me by giving me strength.

**⁴Every king in all the earth will thank you, Lord,
for all of them will hear your words.**

⁵Yes, they will sing about the Lord's ways,
for the glory of the Lord is very great.

**⁶Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble,
but he keeps his distance from the proud.**

⁷Though I am surrounded by troubles,
you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.

You reach out your hand,
and the power of your right hand saves me.

**⁸The Lord will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.
Don't abandon me, for you made me.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 18:20-32 p. 13 pew Bible

Colossians 2:6-19 p. 348 NT & Psalms

Luke 11:1-13 p. 126 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Don't get captured?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Generous God, we offer you our gifts, thankful that your love is overflowing. Bless these gifts so that your love will flow through them to meet the needs of those who cry out to you and to us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Hymn 315 A mighty fortress is our God

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a refuge never failing,
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
yet seeks to work us woe
with craft and power great
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth has not an equal.**
- 2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not a Saviour on our side,
the One of God's own choosing.
Who is this Saviour, who?
Christ Jesus living true,
Lord Sabbath by name,
from age to age the same,
already wins the battle.**
- 3. And though this world, with evil filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the powers of death and hell
our God will surely quell:
their rage we can endure,
for look! their doom is sure:
one little word will fell them.**
- 4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abiding,
ensures that all God's gifts are ours,
through Christ in us residing,**

**whose summons rings above
all good, all earthly love.
Earth's powers waste away;
God's word endures always,
whose reign will last forever.**

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