

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – August 10, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

The sacrifice that honours God is a thankful heart.

**We lift up our hearts with gratitude, and our voices with
praise for all that God has done.**

The eye of the Lord is on those who fear him; on those who hope in
God's steadfast love.

**Our soul waits for the Lord who is our help and shield. We
trust in God's holy name and so we come to worship.**

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 Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 683 I know not why such wondrous grace

1. I know not why such wondrous grace
to me God has made known;
nor why, unworthy as I am,
Christ claimed me for his own,

Refrain:

but I know whom I have believed
and am persuaded that Christ is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

2. I know not why this saving faith
to me God did impart,
nor how believing in the word brought
peace into my heart,

Refrain:

but I know whom I have believed
and am persuaded that Christ is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

3. I know not how the Spirit moves,
convincing me of sin,
revealing Jesus through the word,
creating faith in him:

Refrain:

but I know whom I have believed
and am persuaded that Christ is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto him against that day.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

God of mercy, we confess that we are not always ready.
We are not always ready to do what you call us to do.
We are afraid, so we store up treasures for our own
security. We are uncertain, so we hesitate when you call
us to act. We are selfish, so we look after ourselves first,

putting your mission in second place. Forgive us, O God, and give us the readiness to serve.

- 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 651 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

**1. Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 33:12-22 p. 482 NT & Psalms

¹²What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord,
whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

**¹³The Lord looks down from heaven
and sees the whole human race.**

¹⁴From his throne he observes
all who live on the earth.

**¹⁵He made their hearts,
so he understands everything they do.**

¹⁶The best-equipped army cannot save a king,
nor is great strength enough to save a warrior.

**¹⁷Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—
for all its strength, it cannot save you.**

¹⁸But the Lord watches over those who fear him,
those who rely on his unfailing love.

**¹⁹He rescues them from death
and keeps them alive in times of famine.**

²⁰We put our hope in the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.

**²¹In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.**

**²²Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
for our hope is in you alone.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 15:1-6 p. 11 pew Bible

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 p. 390 NT & Psalms

Luke 12:32-40 p. 130 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Let's talk faith

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your
goodness we have these gifts to share. Bless and use
our offerings for your glory. Give us the courage to**

offer ourselves fully to you, trusting that you will guide us on our journeys of faith, wherever we go. 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.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude