

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 17, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

God, our Shepherd,

gather us together and lead us like a flock.

God, our Gardener,

plant us like a vineyard so that we produce good fruit.

God, our Merciful Judge,

we call upon your name in prayer and praise.

We bow before you, O God,

and offer our worship with glad and humble hearts.

Hymn 661 We give thee but thine own

**1. We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**2. May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our first fruits give.**

**3. To comfort and to bless,
to find a balm for woe,
to tend the lonely in distress
is angels' work below.**

**4. The captive to release,
to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace,
it is a Christlike thing,**

**5. and we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er for thine we do, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 638 Take time to be holy

1. Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.

**Abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

**2. Take time to be holy; the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.**

**3. Take time to be holy; let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.**

**4. Take time to be holy; be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**Merciful God, your word challenges us with its message
of faith and fruitfulness, courage, and commitment. We
hear the stories of the faith of people throughout the
ages and marvel at their perseverance. We are
confronted with questions about our faith and our
fruitfulness, our courage and our commitment. We all
want to be people of faith, totally shaped by the values
of your kingdom, O God, as Jesus so obviously was.
Help us to lay aside those things which hold us back
from living fruitful and faithful lives.**

- 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.**

Hymn 211 Take up your cross

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:
for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.
4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.
5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Responsive Reading Psalm 82 p. 532 NT & Psalms

- ¹God presides over heaven's court;
he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings:
- ²"How long will you hand down unjust decisions
by favoring the wicked? Interlude**
- ³"Give justice to the poor and the orphan;
uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.
- ⁴Rescue the poor and helpless;
deliver them from the grasp of evil people.**
- ⁵But these oppressors know nothing;
they are so ignorant!
They wander about in darkness,
while the whole world is shaken to the core.
- ⁶I say, 'You are gods;
you are all children of the Most High.**

⁷But you will die like mere mortals
and fall like every other ruler.”

**⁸Rise up, O God, and judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 23:23-29 p. 636 pew Bible

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 p. 392 NT & Psalms

Luke 12:49-56 p. 131 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Joy?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Faithful God, bless the gifts we offer to you today. Use them to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world, so that your goodness will grow among your people, and your name be honoured for Christ’s sake. Amen.

Hymn 208 In the cross of Christ I Glory

- 1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o’er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2. When the woes of life o’ertake me,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
lo! it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.**
- 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

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