

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 24, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

With all our hearts, let us praise the Lord.

With all that we are, we will praise God's holy name!

With all our hearts, let us bless the Lord.

We will never forget how kind God has been.

The Lord forgives our sins, heals our weakness, and gives us life everlasting.

Let us worship God who is merciful and patient, God's love never fails.

Hymn 744 Will your anchor hold

**1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?**

Refrain:

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**2. Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rave and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your bark o'er flow?**

Refrain:

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

**3. Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past forever more?**

Refrain:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul

**steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 498 Sing them over again to me

**1. Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
all so freely given,
wooing us to heaven.**

Refrain:

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.**

**2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all,
wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Saviour,
sanctify forever.**

Refrain:

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.**

**3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty,
teach me faith and duty.**

Refrain:

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life,
beautiful words, wonderful words,**

wonderful words of life.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

O God, we confess that too often we close our ears to your voice, turn away from your direction, and pretend that we know what is best. At times we are no more than hypocrites, who say one thing and do another. At times we follow the letter of the law but ignore the Spirit of love. 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 650 He leadeth me

**1. He leadeth me: oh blessed thought!
oh words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
A faithful follower I would be,
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me!**

Refrain:

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!

**By his own hand he leadeth me!
A faithful follower I would be,
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, what ever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me!**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
A faithful follower I would be,
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**4. And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!
A faithful follower I would be,
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 103:1-8 p. 549 NT & Psalms

¹Let all that I am praise the Lord;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

**²Let all that I am praise the Lord;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.**

³He forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases.

**⁴He redeems me from death
and crowns me with love and tender mercies.**

⁵He fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

**⁶The Lord gives righteousness
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.**

⁷He revealed his character to Moses
and his deeds to the people of Israel.

⁸The Lord is compassionate and merciful,

slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 58:9b-14 p. 604 pew Bible

Hebrews 12:18-29 p. 393 NT & Psalms

Luke 13:10-17 p. 132 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon They said what?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness and lean on you for all our needs. Because we want to praise you with more than mere words, we bring our gifts to support Christ's mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your purposes, so that all the world will know your loving kindness. Amen.

Hymn 368 Let Christian faith and hope dispel

- 1. Let Christian faith and hope dispel
the fears of guilt and woe;
the Lord Almighty is our friend,
and who can prove a foe?**
- 2. The Saviour died, but rose again
triumphant from the grave,
and pleads our cause at God's right hand,
omnipotent to save.**
- 3. Who then can e'er divide us more
from Jesus' saving love,
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above?**
- 4. Let troubles rise and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall;
through Christ all dangers we'll defy,
and more than conquer all.**
- 5. Nor death, nor life, nor earth, nor hell,**

**nor time's destroying sway
can e'er erase us from his heart,
or make his love decay.**

**6. Each future period that will bless
as it has blessed the past;
Christ loved us from the first of time;
Christ loves us to the last.**

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