

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 31, 2025**

Responsive Call to Worship

Sing aloud to God who is our strength!

Raise a shout of joy to the God of all generations!

For our God feeds us with the finest wheat;

with honey from the rock God will satisfy.

Let us worship the Lord our God,

**For God has done great things for us and so we bring God
praise.**

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 425 We praise you, O God

- 1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**
- 2. We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.**
- 3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**Hospitable God, you welcome us as people beloved by you.
When we welcome you in our lives, we are also welcoming
all people as people beloved by you. But we confess that
there are times when we fail. Open the door of our hearts so
that we welcome strangers and share what we have, for we
know that such things are pleasing to you, O God.**

- 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 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

**1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear;
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds
and drives away our fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.**

**3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury,
filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**4. Jesus, my shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end:
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought,
but when I see thee as thou art
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6. Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath,
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 81:1, 10-16 p. 531 NT & Psalms

¹Sing praises to God, our strength.

Sing to the God of Jacob.

**¹⁰For it was I, the Lord your God,
who rescued you from the land of Egypt.**

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it with good things.

¹¹But no, my people wouldn't listen.

Israel did not want me around.

**¹²So I let them follow their own stubborn desires,
living according to their own ideas.**

¹³Oh, that my people would listen to me!

Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!

**¹⁴How quickly I would then subdue their enemies!
How soon my hands would be upon their foes!**

¹⁵Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him;
they would be doomed forever.

**¹⁶But I would feed you with the finest wheat.
I would satisfy you with wild honey from the rock."**

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 2:4-13 p. 613 pew Bible

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 p. 394 NT & Psalms

Luke 14:1, 7-14 p. 134 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Humility, hospitality, and love

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

O God, bless the offerings we make today, as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. Keep our hearts free of worry so that we can give what we have freely, trusting your Spirit to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn 794 Abide with me

**1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh abide with me.**

**2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?**

**Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

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