

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2025
Responsive Call to Worship

Joy comes to those who follow the ways of the Lord.

We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!

Those who follow the Lord are like trees planted by the river, bearing fruit each season.

May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!

Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

Let us worship God now and for all our days.

Hymn 1 How blest are they, who, fearing God

**1. How blest are they who, fearing God,
from sin restrain their feet,
who will not with the wicked stand,
and shun the sinner's seat.**

**2. How blest are they who make God's law
their treasure and delight
and meditate upon that word
with gladness day and night.**

**3. Their lives are nourished like a tree
set by the river's side;
its leaf is green; its fruit is sure;
so all their works abide.**

**4. The wicked, like the driven chaff,
are blown across the land;
they shall not gather with the just,
nor in the judgement stand.**

**5. The Lord will guard the righteous well;
their way to God is known;
the way of sinners, far from God,
shall surely be o'erthrown.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 642 O Master, let me walk with thee

**1. O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;**

**tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**3. Teach me thy patience; still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**

**4. in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**God of our lives, you search us and know us. We have chosen
to not take up your cross, to bear the burdens that are ours
to carry. We have not given up our attachments to
possessions or to self. We have not counted the cost of
walking into an unknown future with you. Help us turn away
from evil, that we may choose to walk with you once more.**

- 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 569 O Jesus, I have promised

**1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;**

be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

2. Oh let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.

Responsive Reading Psalm 1 p. 457 NT & Psalms

¹Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

**²But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.**

³They are like trees planted along the riverbank,

bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.

⁴But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

⁵They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.

**⁶For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 30:15-20	p. 164 pew Bible
Philemon 1:1-21	p. 375 NT & Psalms
Luke 14:25-33	p. 135 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon It's a choice

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**O God, we offer these gifts to you. Use them to shape
and transform the world with your Good News. In
Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Hymn 629 Salvation and immortal praise

**1. Salvation and immortal praise
unto our God we sing!
Let heaven and earth and rocks and seas
with glad hosannas ring.**

**2. To Father, Son and Spirit blest,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, and is
and shall be evermore.**

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