

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 19, 2025

Responsive Call to Worship

God promises us justice,

and God teaches us persistence.

God promises us deep assurance,

and God teaches us not to lose heart.

God promises to be with us

and God teaches us to tend to each other. Together, let us worship our God of comfort and challenge, our God of courage and compassion.

Hymn 81 Unto the hills around

**1. Unto the hills around do I lift up
my longing eyes:**

**oh whence for me shall my salvation come,
from whence arise?**

**From God the Lord doth come my certain aid,
from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.**

**2. He will not suffer that thy foot be moved:
safe shalt thou be.**

**No careless slumber shall his eyelids close,
who keepeth thee.**

**Behold, he sleepeth not, he slumbereth ne'er,
who keepeth Israel in his holy care.**

**3. Jehovah is himself thy keeper true,
thy changeless shade;
Jehovah thy defence on thy right hand
himself hath made,
and thee no sun by day shall ever smite;
no moon shall harm thee in the silent night.**

**4. From every evil shall he keep thy soul,
from every sin:
Jehovah shall preserve thy going out,
thy coming in.**

**Above thee watching, he whom we adore
shall keep thee henceforth, yea, forevermore.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 495 The heavens declare your glory, Lord

1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!

**In every star your wisdom shines,
but when our eyes behold your word,
we read your name in clearer lines.**

**2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise
to all the earth, and never stand,
so when your truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.**

**3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest
till through the world your truth has run,
till Christ has all the nations blest
who see the light or feel the sun.**

**4. Great sun of righteousness, arise
and bless the world with heavenly light!
Your gospel makes the simple wise;
your laws are pure, your judgements right.**

**5. Your noblest wonders here we view
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make your word my guide to heaven.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

**God of our hopes and our hearts, you provide the gift
of faith but we lose heart quickly. Troubles weaken our
trust and disappointments eat away at our
commitment. Forgive us and create in us clean hearts
and in your love, give us peace and perseverance.**

- 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 506 The Spirit breathes upon the word

**1. The Spirit breathes upon the word,
and brings the truth to sight;
precepts and promises afford
a sanctifying light.**

**2. The hand that gave it still supplies
the gracious light and heat;
God's truths up on the nations rise;
they rise, but never set.**

**3. Let everlasting thanks be thine
for such a bright display,
as makes a world of darkness shine
with beams of heavenly day.**

**4. My soul rejoices to pursue
the steps of One I love,
till glory breaks up on my view
in brighter worlds above.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 121 **p. 574** **NT & Psalms**

¹I look up to the mountains—
does my help come from there?

**²My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth!**

³He will not let you stumble;
the one who watches over you will not slumber.

**⁴Indeed, he who watches over Israel
never slumbers or sleeps.**

⁵The Lord himself watches over you!
The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade.

**⁶The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon at night.**

⁷The Lord keeps you from all harm
and watches over your life.

**⁸The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,
both now and forever.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 32:22-31 p. 27 pew Bible

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 p. 370 NT & Psalms

Luke 18:1-8 p. 140 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Let me go!

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**God of the great and the small, we bring what we have
to share, the fruit of our lives. Bless our gifts and our
lives so that generosity and justice will join hands to
surprise the world with your goodness in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Hymn 209 O Love that wilt not let me go

**1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze, its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.**

**4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,**

**and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.**

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