

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday

Responsive Call to Worship

From the routines of work and school, home, and play,
we have come to worship God.

With the weight of the world heavy on our hearts,
we have come to worship God.

In the midst of our fears and our hopes,
we offer our prayer and praise in Jesus' name.

For we trust in God's power and presence,
so let us worship God with heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Hymn 333 I sing the almighty power of God

**1. I sing the almighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at Gods command,
and all the stars obey.**

**2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eyes,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the skies!**

**3. There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere I could be,
thou, God, art present there.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 676 Jesus, lover of my soul

**1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
oh receive my soul at last!**

**2. Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find:
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

**4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

Merciful God, you created human beings with gifts of intelligence and imagination. Yet we confess we often

use these gifts to exploit your creation and put others in their place. So often we think that we are great when we are small. Or we claim smallness when you set a challenge before us. We convince ourselves that our sin is not nearly as great as others, yet every sin offends your purpose for us. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us a truer picture of ourselves.

- 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 315 A mighty fortress is our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a refuge never failing,
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
yet seeks to work us woe
with craft and power great
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth has not an equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not a Saviour on our side,
the One of God's own choosing.
Who is this Saviour, who?
Christ Jesus living true,
Lord Sabbaoth by name,
from age to age the same,

already wins the battle.

**3. And though this world, with evil filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the powers of death and hell
our God will surely quell:
their rage we can endure,
for look! their doom is sure:
one little word will fell them.**

**4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abiding,
ensures that all God’s gifts are ours,
through Christ in us residing,
whose summons rings above
all good, all earthly love.
Earth’s powers waste away;
God’s word endures always,
whose reign will last forever.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 65 p. 511 NT & Psalms

¹What mighty praise, O God,
belongs to you in Zion.

We will fulfill our vows to you,
**²for you answer our prayers.
All of us must come to you.**

³Though we are overwhelmed by our sins,
you forgive them all.

**⁴What joy for those you choose to bring near,
those who live in your holy courts.
What festivities await us
inside your holy Temple.**

⁵You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds,
O God our savior.

You are the hope of everyone on earth,
even those who sail on distant seas.

**⁶You formed the mountains by your power
and armed yourself with mighty strength.**

⁷You quieted the raging oceans

with their pounding waves
and silenced the shouting of the nations.

**⁸Those who live at the ends of the earth
stand in awe of your wonders.**

**From where the sun rises to where it sets,
you inspire shouts of joy.**

⁹You take care of the earth and water it,
making it rich and fertile.

The river of God has plenty of water;
it provides a bountiful harvest of grain,
for you have ordered it so.

**¹⁰You drench the plowed ground with rain,
melting the clods and leveling the ridges.**

**You soften the earth with showers
and bless its abundant crops.**

¹¹You crown the year with a bountiful harvest;
even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.

**¹²The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture,
and the hillsides blossom with joy.**

**¹³The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep,
and the valleys are carpeted with grain.**

They all shout and sing for joy!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

Scripture Lessons

Joel 2:23-32

p. 743 pew Bible

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

p. 370 NT & Psalms

Luke 18:9-14

p. 141 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What does it mean to “reform”?

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Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**Good and generous God, receive our humble gifts,
offered in hope and gratitude. Make something of
them – and of us, so that the world will be surprised by**

**your love and what we can offer them in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Hymn 401 O Spirit of the living God

- 1. O Spirit of the living God,
in all the fullness of thy grace,
wherever human foot hath trod,
descend on our rebellious race.**
- 2. Give tongues of fire and hearts of love,
to preach the reconciling word;
give power and unction from above,
whene'er the joyful sound is heard.**
- 3. Be darkness, at thy coming, light,
confusion order, in thy path;
souls without strength inspire with might;
bid mercy triumph over wrath.**
- 4. O Spirit of the Lord, prepare
all the round earth its God to meet;
breathe thou abroad like morning air,
till hearts of stone begin to beat.**
- 5. Baptize the nations: far and nigh
the triumphs of the cross record;
the name of Jesus glorify,
till every kindred call him Lord.**

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