

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 23, 2026

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts,

for God's faithful love endures forever.

We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,

for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.

We place our trust in in God with full confidence,

and so we come to worship with hearts full of praise.

Hymn 331 The God of Abraham praise

**1. The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love.**

**Almighty, great I Am!
by earth and heaven confessed,
I bow and bless the sacred name
forever blest.**

**2. The God of Abraham praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys
at God's right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame, and power,
the Lord my only portion make,
my shield and tower.**

**3. Though nature's strength decay,
and earth and hell withstand,
to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
at God's command;
the watery deep I pass
with Jesus in my view,**

and through the howling wilderness
my way pursue.

4. The goodly land I see,
with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty
and endless rest;
there milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow,
with mercy crowned.

5. There dwells the Lord our King,
the Lord our Righteousness;
triumphant o'er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace
on Zion's sacred height
God's kingdom still maintains,
and glorious with the saints in light
forever reigns.

6. The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
"hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"
they ever cry.
Hail Abraham's God, and mine!
I join the heavenly lays;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 442 Speak, Lord, in the stillness

1. Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
speak your word to me;
hushed my heart to listen
in expectancy.

2. Speak, O gracious Master,
in this quiet hour;
let me see your face, Lord,
feel your touch of power.

3. For the words you give me

they are life indeed;
living bread from heaven,
now my spirit feed.

4. Speak, your servant listens,
be not silent, Lord;
let me know your presence;
let your voice be heard.

5. Fill me with the knowledge
of your glorious will;
all your own good pleasure
in my life fulfil.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from you and your ways. You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the behaviours and customs of this world. You offer the possibility of transformation and new life, but we cling to our old patterns and habits. You give each of us gifts to use for the building of your kingdom, but we squander these gifts and use them for self-gain. Forgive our foolishness and return us to your paths of truth and love.

- 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 489 Help us to help each other, Lord

1. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to share;

let each our friendly aid afford
and feel each other's care.

2. Up into thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow,
and by thy let sacrifice be led
the fruits of love to show.

3. Drawn by the magnet of thy love
let all our hearts agree,
and ever to each other move,
and ever nearer thee.

4. This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity,
Oh let us still, we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.

Responsive Reading Psalm 124 p. 575 NT & Psalms

¹What if the Lord had not been on our side?

Let all Israel repeat:

²**What if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us?**

³They would have swallowed us alive
in their burning anger.

⁴**The waters would have engulfed us;
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.**

⁵Yes, the raging waters of their fury
would have overwhelmed our very lives.

⁶**Praise the Lord,
who did not let their teeth tear us apart!**

⁷We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap.
The trap is broken, and we are free!

⁸**Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 1.8-2.10 p. 44 pew Bible

Romans 12.1-8 p. 275 NT & Psalms

Matthew 16.13-20 p. 32 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon How many women did it take to raise a deliverer?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

O God, bless what we offer today as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer you this week. We trust that, with your blessing, your Holy Spirit can accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn 633 Who would true valour see

**1. Who would true valour see
let them come hither:
here's one will constant be
come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
shall make me once relent
my first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.**

**2. Who so beset me round
with dismal stories
do but themselves confound:
my strength the more is.
No foes shall stay my might;
though I with giants fight,
but I will have the right
to be a pilgrim.**

**3. Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt my spirit:
I know I at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
Fear not what others say;
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.**

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