

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 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

Praise the God of life.

Let us praise God together.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

Let us praise the God of mercy together.

Hymn 495 The heavens declare Thy 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 Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 482 Christ is made the sure foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

2. All with in that holy city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pour perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today:
with thy faithful loving kindness,
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.

4. Here bestow on all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

5. Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
one in might and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

O God, we confess that our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to

judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. You are filled with joy, but too often we are filled with dissatisfaction and complaints. Forgive us, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit this day, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

- 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 707 More love to thee

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee:

hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee;

**this is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee, more love to thee**

2. Through all that life may bring—joy, grief, or pain,

work out they perfect plan—true heavenly gain;

**only create in me more love, O Christ, to thee,
more love to thee, more love to thee.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 114 p. 563 NT & Psalms

¹When the Israelites escaped from Egypt—

when the family of Jacob left that foreign land—

**²the land of Judah became God's sanctuary,
and Israel became his kingdom.**

³The Red Sea saw them coming and hurried out of their way!

The water of the Jordan River turned away.

**⁴The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs!**

⁵What's wrong, Red Sea, that made you hurry out of their way?

What happened, Jordan River, that you turned away?

⁶Why, mountains, did you skip like rams?

Why, hills, like lambs?

**⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

⁸He turned the rock into a pool of water;

yes, a spring of water flowed from solid rock.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 14:19-31 p. 55 pew Bible

Romans 14:1-12 p. 277 NT & Psalms

Matthew 18:21-35 p. 36 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon It isn't about math

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**We give thanks to you, O God, because you have
blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have
too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and
become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of
Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.**

Hymn 670 **Amazing grace**

**1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

4. The Lord has promised good to me:

**His word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.**

**5. What thanks I owe you, and what love—
a boundless, endless store—
shall echo through the realms above
when time shall be no more.**

**6. When we've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than
when we'd first begun.**

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