

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 4, 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

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,

Its rising is from the end of the heavens.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you,

Come let us worship our Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

Hymn 9 God's law is perfect

**1. God's law is perfect and converts
the soul in sin that lies:**

**God's testimony is most sure
and makes the simple wise.**

**2. The statutes of the Lord are right
and do rejoice the heart:
the Lord's command is pure, and doth
light to the eyes impart.**

**3. Unspotted is the fear of God
and ever doth endure:
the judgements of the Lord are true
together, right and sure.**

**4. They more than gold, yea much fine gold,
to be desired are
than honey, honey from the comb
that droppeth, sweeter far.**

**5. Moreover, they thy servants warn
how they their life should frame:
a great reward provided is
for them that keep the same.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 240 Rock of ages, cleft for me

**1. Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

**2. Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling:
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.**

**4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne,
rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.**

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

Generous and loving God, we honestly confess that in a world where many do not have enough, we have taken more than we need. In a world where many live in fear, we take peace for granted. In a world where many have lost hope, we are too often indifferent to despair. Forgive us, merciful God, and transform our lives.

- 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 461 Be thou my vision

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.**

**3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight.
be thou my armour, and be thou my might
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

**4. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, through all my days;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!**

**5. High King of heaven, when the battle is won
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun!
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 19 p. 470 NT & Psalms

¹The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

**²Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.**

³They speak without a sound or word;

their voice is never heard.

**⁴Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.**

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

⁵It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

**⁶The sun rises at one end of the heavens
and follows its course to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.**

⁷The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

**⁸The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

⁹Reverence for the Lord is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;
each one is fair.

**¹⁰They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.**

**They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.**

¹¹They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

**¹²How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.**

¹³Keep your servant from deliberate sins!
Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

**¹⁴May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Scripture Lessons

Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 p. 60 pew Bible

Philippians 3.4b-13 p. 343 NT & Psalms

Matthew 21.33-46 p. 42 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Back to commandments

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Gracious God, we offer our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for what we have to share in these challenging times. Bless our gifts and our energy so they will bless others in need in our community and around your world, for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 685 How firm a foundation

- 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can God say than to you hath been said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- 2. "Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**
- 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee over flow,
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**
- 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:
the flames shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.**
- 5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

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