St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – November 8, 2026
Remembrance Sunday

Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge we are worshipping on the territories included in Treaties 4, 6, and 7 the traditional homelands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, Assiniboine, Kanai (Blood), Siksika (Blackfoot), Piikani (Peigan), Nakoda (Stoney) and Tsuu T'ina (sarcee) and the traditional homeland of the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

On this Sunday of remembrance, we gather to sing and to pray,
we remember the past and look to the future.
On this day when we remember that the guns and cannons fell silent,
we come before you God, seeking your peace.
On this day of hope in the face of terror and all that is wrong,
we come before you God, believing in your promises. Let us worship God together, in peace.

Two minutes of silence remembrance

Hymn 800 O Canada

1. O Canada our home and native land,
true patriot love in all our hearts command.
With glowing hearts, thy children stand,
the true north strong and free;
from far and wide, O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free;
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

2. Almighty Love, by thy mysterious power,
in wisdom guide, with faith and freedom dower,
be ours a nation evermore
that no oppression blights,
where justice rules from shore to shore,
from lakes to northern lights.
May love alone for wrong atone;
Lord of the lands, make Canada thine own.

Lord of the lands, make Canada thine own.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 411 Stand up and bless the Lord

1. Stand up and bless the Lord;
God's people now rejoice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.

2. Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear God's holy name,
and praise and magnify?

3. Oh for the living flame
from God's own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought.

4. God is our strength and song;
now is salvation ours.
God's love in Christ we now proclaim
with all our ransomed powers.

5. Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless God's glorious name
henceforth forevermore.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

God of mercy, we confess that the world around us is broken and heartbreaking. Countries turn disputes over territory into threats of terror. Old enemies stir up conflict within tribes and nations. The threat of violence keeps us all on edge. We have not learned from past conflicts what leads to peace with justice among nations and neighbours. Forgive us all.

– 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 325 Eternal Father, strong to save

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
oh hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2. O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walked upon the foaming deep
and calm amid the storm did sleep:
oh hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bade their angry tumult cease,
and gave, for wild confusion, peace:
oh hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4. O Trinity of love and power,
our kindred shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
then evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Responsive Reading Psalm 78:1-7 p. 525 NT & Psalms

[1] O my people, listen to my instructions.
Open your ears to what I am saying,
[2] for I will speak to you in a parable.
I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—

3 stories we have heard and known,
stories our ancestors handed down to us.
4 We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders.
5 For he issued his laws to Jacob;
he gave his instructions to Israel.
He commanded our ancestors
to teach them to their children,
6 so the next generation might know them—
even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.
7 So each generation should set its hope anew on God,
not forgetting his glorious miracles
and obeying his commands.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

Scripture Lessons

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	pew Bible p. 188
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	p. 355 New Testament & Psalms
Matthew 25:1-13	p. 49 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Choosing matters

Prayers of the People *(minister)*

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

God of purpose and promise, we offer our gifts to help fulfill your purposes on earth. Bless our gifts and our actions so that others will grasp the promise of your love and discover your purpose for their lives, through Christ, our friend and saviour. Amen.

Hymn 794 Abide with me

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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

Postlude