



*God's love, Our service.*

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Sunday, July 30, 2023

### 9th Sunday after Pentecost

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#### INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The July Noisy Offering collection will go to the MLM Sack Lunch Program, chosen by Parish Ed.



## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 705, vs. 1 & 4

### God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

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### Greeting page 203

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE** Pg. 203

**HYMN OF PRAISE** page 204

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God,  
**through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

### First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a

great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136**

*When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)*

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

### **Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39**

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love*

*poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks Be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 205

*Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.*

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."



**CHILDREN'S SERMON** Pastor Len Dale

**SERMON** Pastor Len Dale

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 793**

### **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 both by day and by  
night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true  
word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high  
tow'r,

raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my  
pow'r.

- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.;  
tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

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## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**



## PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always,

**And also with you**

Let us share God's peace with one another.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, .....

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, Holy** pg. 207

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

## COMMUNION

**COMMUNION SONG** pg. 208

**COMMUNION HYMN** ELW 496

**One Bread, One Body**

*Refrain*

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the  
earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*



- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed

✙ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 537**

#### **On Our Way Rejoicing**

1 On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered;  
vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety;  
Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?

hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing  
now and evermore. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

### **St. Mark's members:**

Dave Mindrup,  
Ron Brown,  
Nancy Brown,  
Janet Nichols,  
Doug Campbell,  
Sheila Mutschelknaus,  
Paul Moore,  
Barbara Strampe,  
Ruth Ann Hackler,  
Chuck Vandenberg,  
Susan & Bill Roberts,  
George McElroy,  
Shane Paulson,  
Janet Schmidt,  
Phyllis Dettmer,  
Madison Young

### **Family & friends:**

Sheryl Aldersen, friend of Dale Albers,  
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle  
Charles, brother of Joe VanKempen,  
Scott, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,  
Hugo B Gibson, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Kai son Davis, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Cameron Leckliter, neighbor of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Alyssa, niece-in-law of Mike and Jane Scherrer,  
Family of Peggy Stromsness, sister of John Bott,  
Tim Sullivan, friend of the VanKempens,  
Mariah, friend of the Bryer family,  
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Brian Czerw, friend of Barbara Strampe,  
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,  
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,  
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,  
Michelle Ray, friend of Barbara Strampe's daughter,  
Jane Fетters, Sister of Joni Benz,  
Bill Benne, friend of Joyce and Louis Johnson,  
Ron & Susan Laliberte, neighbors of Barbara Strampe,

Lynn, Dennis & Sharon Thee, relatives of Barbara Strampe,  
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,  
Craig Aldag, Uncle of Ali Luin,  
Manuel & family, friend of Jenny Wheeler's grandson,  
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Andrew, friend of the Scherrers,  
Craig Downing, Father of Joni Benz,  
Jenny Mack, Niece of Jenny Wheeler,  
Chris, Brother of Pete Cagle,  
Amber Smith, friend of Pete Cagle,  
Family of Kathy, cousin of Barb Nail,  
Leo Patton, Grandfather of Jason Howe,  
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,  
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,  
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,  
Stephanie Herndon, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Gibby, friend of the Bryers,  
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,  
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,  
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,  
Katherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,  
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,  
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,  
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,  
Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's sister-in-law,  
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,  
Rosemary Williams & her sons Wayne & Wade Beck,  
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart Stewart,  
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,  
Jackson Werth, friend of the Bott/Bollinger Families,  
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,  
All People affected by natural disasters

### **Those in the Military:**

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,