



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 21, 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September Noisy Offering collection will go to the MLM Sack lunch program, chosen by our Confirmation class.

The flowers today are from:

- * Scott & Amanda Sibson, in celebration of their anniversary. *Happy Anniversary!*
- * The Carillon ringers, in honor of Dee Iverson.



Upcoming Commemorations

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

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,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 533

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!
- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,

so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.

- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Greeting page 138

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. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE page 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CARILLON RINGERS "Lift High the Cross" arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 113

The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.
² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.
⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
⁶ **but stoops to behold**

the heavens and the earth?

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p.142

Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 16th Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his

own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.



¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints, *especially Matthew and all* who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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.

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ELW 182

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. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 146



COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 732

Borning Cry

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

ELW 491

Come, Let Us Eat

[The words in parentheses may be sung by a leader or by all.]

- 1 (Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,)
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
(Our Lord's body let us take together,)
our Lord's body let us take together.
- 2 (Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,)
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
(Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,)
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

- 3 (In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,)
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
(In the presence of our Lord we gather,)
in the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 (Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,)
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
(Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,)
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972
Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 717

Let Justice Flow like Streams

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.

- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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:

Jami Schmideskamp,
Nicole Moore,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
George McElroy,
Janet Schmidt,

Family & friends:

Family of Dee Iverson, friend of St. Mark's,
Barry Hansen, cousin of Paula Quade,
Family of Irene, Mother of Janet Krievins,
Family of Carol Beall, mother-in-law of Tim Anderson and friend of Don & Janet Anderson
John & Darlene Magnuson, parents of Char Saunders,
Family of Susan Gaylen, cousin of Joyce Johnson,
Garry Thomas, father of Mark Thomas,
Lilian, great granddaughter of Jenny Wheeler's sister,
Susan Galyen, friend of Joyce Johnson,
Art Remmereid, uncle of Joyce Johnson,
Kathryn Young, cousin of Mark Schmideskamp,
Steve, cousin of Tom Bryer,
Nancy Harris, daughter-in-law of Nancy & Ron Brown,
Marilou Osborne, cousin of Joni Benz,
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Fran Besser, friend of Joni & Steve Benz,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,
Tammy Strampe, daughter-in-law of Barbara Strampe,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,

Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,
Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
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,