



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 13, 2026
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader; **bold text** indicates a congregational response.

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, please use the QR code to the right.



Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Robert Buckley Farlee

We stand as we are able.

Hymn 452

Awake, O Sleeper

Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18

The apostolic greeting quotes the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 13:14)

The Song of Praise, or Gloria ("Glory to God..."), is a continuation of resurrection praise. With the angels we sing God's glory revealed in Je-sus Christ. (Luke 2:14).

The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.

Greeting

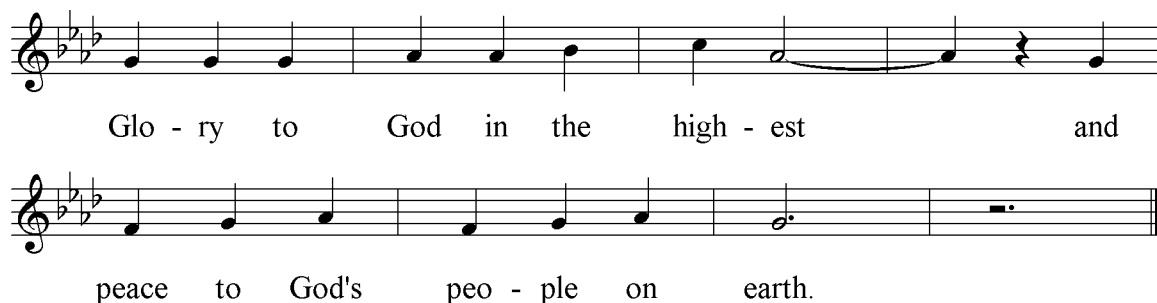
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Song of Praise

Glory to God

The choir sings the verses; all sing the refrain together.



Choir: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Choir: Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Choir: For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.

The first reading is from the Old Testament.

A psalm is spoken or sung as a response to the first reading.

The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

L A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:1-2, 8-13

*We sing the psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the verses in **bold**.*

¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits.**

⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹**you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³**As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.**

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

L A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

The choir sings the Acclamation once; we all sing together the second time.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly dis-

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

tressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.

5 For love excludes no race or clan
 that names the Savior's name;
 his family embraces all
 whose Father is the same.

6 We now forgive each other's faults
 as we our own confess,
 that we may love each other well
 in Christian gentleness.

The Apostles' Creed (which begins, "I believe...") is traditionally attributed to the first apostles, working under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It has been known to the church since at least the fourth century.

We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord's service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

Creed

P Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

C **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**

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

We greet one another, saying "Peace be with you."

Offertory Anthem

In Thee Is Gladness

For text, see Hymn 867.



Dale Grotenhuis

As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God's generous goodness.

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

The choir sings the Offertory once; we all sing together the second time.



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer.
Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of creation,
C you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen

The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The Proper Preface

The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."

The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus ("holy") echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

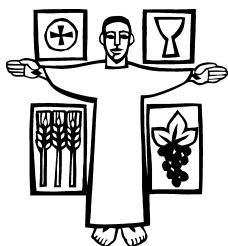
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

We are seated.

Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.



COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle to receive communion at the altar rail. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



Post-Communion Blessing

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

C **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Sustaining God,

C **with this bread and cup,**

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen

Blessing

P The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

C **Amen**

Hymn 604

O Christ, Our Hope

We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.

Dismissal

P Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

O Christ, Our Hope

Kenneth T. Kosche

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, September 13	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School
Monday, September 14	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, September 15	6:30PM	Council
Wednesday, September 16	6:30PM	Choir rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, September 17		
Friday, September 18	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, September 19	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, September 20	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter	Sandy Anders & Lois Ashby	Betty Burrows
Lector	Donna Abbott	Franci Sifers

Attendance Last Sunday

Offering Received (Pledges/Loose) \$2087

Budget (Pledges/Loose) \$3173



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor

Ministers and Staff

Ministers: Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Secretary / Financial Administrator: Kathy Bryant
Organist / Choir Director: Jacob Gordon
Pastor: James Armentrout

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