



# THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 27, 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

*All Praise to You*

Richard Proulx

Children's Sermon

*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 service continues with the hymn on the next page.*

*We stand as we are able.*

Hymn

*All Praise to You, for You, O King Divine*

All praise to you, for you, O King di - vine, your  
You came to us, in low - li - ness of thought; by  
O Je - sus, let your mind with - in us be, for  
There - fore you are, by God's e - ter - nal vow, most  
Let ev - 'ry tongue con - fess with one ac - cord in

right - ful glo - ry free - ly did re - sign that  
you the out - cast and the poor were sought, and  
you were ser - vant, that we might be free, and  
high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now, and  
heav'n and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; and

in our dark - ened hearts your grace might shine:  
by your death was God's sal - va - tion wrought:  
hum - bly stooped to death on Cal - va - ry:  
giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow:  
God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

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.

*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 Jesus Christ. (Luke 2:14).*

# Song of Praise

## Glory to God

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you

thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

- lone are the Lord, you a - lone

are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*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.*

#### Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, 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.*



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Children's Sermon

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

L A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

<sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 25:1-9

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

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

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

## Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

**L** A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

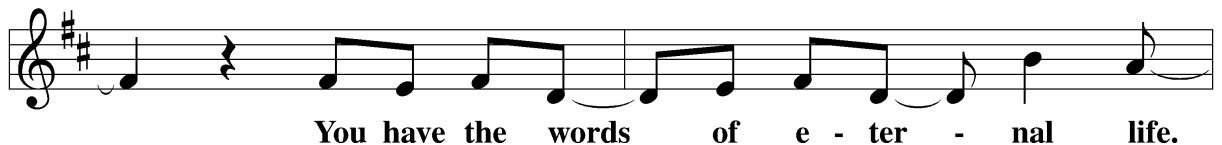
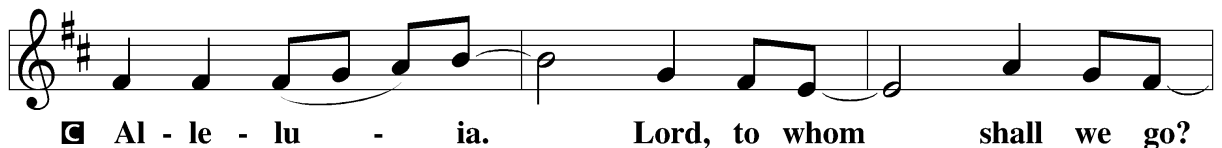
<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation



*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.*

# The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

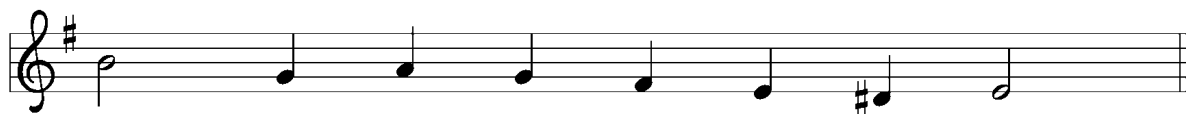
*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

*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

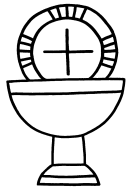
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **And also with you.**

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

## The Offering

## Offertory Anthem

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*



Simon Lole

*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*

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.*

*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.*

*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.*

## 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."*

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

*Once we have  
all received the  
sacrament and  
returned to our  
seats, we cele-  
brate the per-  
sonal encounter  
with the risen  
Christ through  
blessing, prayer,  
and singing.*

## 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.*



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**

*The service continues with the hymn on the next page.*



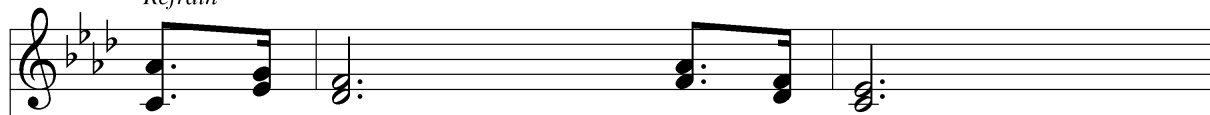
1 Take the name of Je - sus with you, child of sor - row and of woe;  
 2 Take the name of Je - sus ev - er as a shield from ev - 'ry snare;  
 3 Oh, the pre-cious name of Je - sus! How it thrills our souls with joy,  
 4 At the name of Je - sus bow-ing, fall - ing pros - trate at his feet,



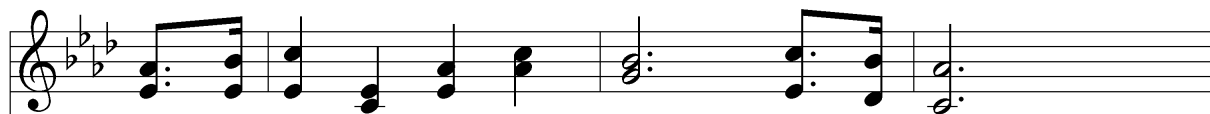
it will joy and com-fort give you; take it then, wher-e'er you go.  
 if temp-ta-tions round you gath - er, breathe that ho - ly name in prayer.  
 when his lov-ing arms re - ceive us, and his songs our tongues em-ploy!  
 King of kings in heav'n we'll crown him, when our jour-ney is com-plete.



*Refrain*



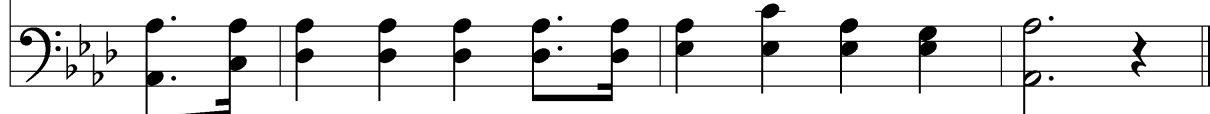
Pre - cious name, Pre - cious name, oh, how sweet! oh, how sweet!



Hope of earth and joy of heav'n. Pre - cious name, Pre - cious name,



oh, how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heav'n.  
 oh, how sweet, how sweet!



Dismissal

P Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Anton Leupold

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

|                         |           |                              |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Sunday, September 27    | 11AM      | Worship with Holy Communion  |
| Monday, September 28    | 5PM—7PM   | The Lion's Share open        |
| Tuesday, September 29   |           |                              |
| Wednesday, September 30 | 6:30PM    | Choir rehearsal (Nave)       |
| Thursday, October 1     |           |                              |
| Friday, October 2       | 10AM—noon | The Lion's Share open        |
|                         | 6:30PM    | NA meeting (Fellowship Hall) |
| Saturday, October 3     | 8PM       | NA meeting (Fellowship Hall) |
| Sunday, October 4       | 11AM      | Worship with Holy Communion  |

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

|                            | <u>Today</u> | <u>Next Week</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Greeter</b>             |              |                  |
| <b>Lector</b>              |              |                  |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b> |              |                  |



**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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*All Praise to You, for You, O King Divine*—text: F. Bland Tucker, alt., as in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (1993); music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Text © 1938 The Church Pension Fund; music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission, ONE LICENSE, License #A-729546.

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*—text: Martin Luther, tr. Catherine Winkworth; music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

*Take the Name of Jesus with You*—text: Lydia Baxter; music: PRECIOUS NAME, William H. Doane.