



THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, October 18, 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 My Hope on God Is Founded

Robert Buckley Farlee

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

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1. Sing praise to God, the high-est good, the au-thor of cre-
2. What your al-might-y pow'r has made, in mer-cy you are
3. We sought the Lord in our dis-tress; O God, in mer-cy
4. All who con-fess Christ's ho-ly name, give God the praise and
- a - tion! O God of love, you un-der-stood our
keep-ing; by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade, your
hear us. Our Sav-ior saw our help-less-ness and
glo-ry! Let all God's sav-ing pow'r pro-claim; give
need for your sal - va - tion. With heal-ing balm our
eye is nev - er sleep-ing; in the do-min-ion
came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
God the praise and glo-ry! Cast ev-'ry i-dol
souls you fill; all our la-ment with peace you still.
of your might all things are just and good and right.
praise the Lord, who is by one and all a-dored.
from its throne; God is the Lord, and God a-lone.
To God all praise and glo-ry!

*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 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.

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen



LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The first reading
is from the Old
Testament.*

First Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7

L A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you

and level the mountains,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the LORD do all these things.

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

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

Psalm 96:1-9

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

¹Sing to the LORD¹ a new song;
 sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.
²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.
³Declare God's glory a-¹mong the nations
 and God's wonders a-¹mong all peoples.
⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised,**
more to be feared¹ than all gods.
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.
⁶**Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.
⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD hon-¹or and power.
⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD.
⁹Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.

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

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.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

L A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

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 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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.

Hymn 757

All My Hope on God Is Founded

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

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.

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**

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.

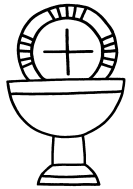
The Prayers



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

O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

O God, we bear the imprint of your face:
the colors of our skin are your design,
and what we have of beauty in our race
as man or woman, you alone define,
who stretched a living fabric on our frame
and gave to each a language and a name.

Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate
because our race, our skin is not the same,
while we are judged unequal by the state
and victims made because we own our name,
humanity reduced to little worth,
dishonored is your living face on earth.

O God, we share the image of the One
whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;
in Christ's humanity we find our own,
and in his family our proper kin:
Christ is the brother we still crucify,
his love the language we must learn, or die.

- text by Shirley Erena Murray

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.

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.**

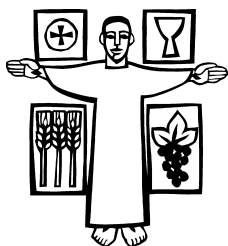
The Lord's Prayer

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 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

Michael Helman

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Sunday, October 18	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, October 19	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, October 20		
Wednesday, October 21	6:30PM	Choir rehearsal (Nave)
Thursday, October 22		
Friday, October 23	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, October 24	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, October 25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter		
Lector		
Communion Assistant		
Coffee Hour		



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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Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good—text Johann J. Schütz, tr. Frances E. Cox, alt.; music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, Medieval European tune.