



the welcome place.

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Bulletin**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2026**  
**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* (ELW 835)**

**GREETING**

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 (ELW p. 120)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 121)**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> Realizing 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?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even 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. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- <sup>2</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup> **who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup> **O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup> You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup> **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- <sup>9</sup> you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup> **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

<sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those 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. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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.

<sup>5</sup> Some 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. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why 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. <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

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

<sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* (ELW 721)**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But 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.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went

and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *I Come with Joy* (ELW 482)**

## **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**

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *When We Are Living: Pues si vivimos* (ELW 639)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## **DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)**

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.**

## **PREFACE (ELW p. 130)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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, HOLY (ELW p. 130)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,  
receive our praise and petitions,  
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,  
and fill us with your blessing,  
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,



we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION SONG (LAMB OF GOD) (ELW p. 135)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

#### **SONG DURING COMMUNION *Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior* (W&P 118)**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace,  
Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *God's Work, Our Hands* (ACS 1000)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

PREACHER / PRESIDER .....The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey  
MUSICIANS .....Faith Woodward  
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree  
LECTOR .....Sarah Powers

**CHURCH STAFF**

**PASTOR:** The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey      **SCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Melisa McDaid  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Faith Woodward      **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Alice Kaplan

**This Week at St. Mark**

Today ..... Worship Service..... 10 AM  
Monday ..... Finance Team Meeting ..... 7 PM  
Tuesday ..... Council Meeting ..... 7 PM  
Sunday ..... Worship Service..... 10 AM

## **Announcements**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with Fall Fest. We couldn't have done it without you!

Save your **CAN TABS** for the Ronald McDonald House, which gives families a place to stay while their children receive medical treatment. The house also provides meals, transportation to and from the hospital, and counseling services. Your tabs help make these services possible - even one tab can make a difference. Please bring your can tabs to church and place them in the yellow container in the narthex.

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