



the welcome place.

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Bulletin**  
**Sunday, August 3, 2025**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 116)**

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**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 *Son of God, Eternal Savior* (ELW 655)**

**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.**

## **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 (ELW p. 124)**

Let us pray.

**Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love  
what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in  
your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

## **FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search  
out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to  
humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity  
and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my  
successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for  
which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave  
my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes  
one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by  
another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from

all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 49:1-12**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,  
<sup>2</sup> **you of high degree and low,  
rich and poor together.**  
<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.  
<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**  
<sup>5</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,  
<sup>6</sup> **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,  
and boast of their great riches?**  
<sup>7</sup> One can never redeem another,  
or give to God the ransom for another's life;  
<sup>8</sup> **for the ransom of a life is so great  
that there would never be enough to pay it,**  
<sup>9</sup> in order to live forever and ever  
and never see the grave.  
<sup>10</sup> **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish  
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**  
<sup>11</sup> Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,  
though they had named lands after themselves.  
<sup>12</sup> **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;  
they are like the beasts that perish.**

### **SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11**

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being

renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *More Precious Than Silver* (PP)**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *More Precious Than Silver* (PP)**

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)**

### **CREED (ELW p. 126)**

**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**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**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 *Beauty for Brokenness* (W&P 17)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)**

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)**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,

and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen, amen. Amen, amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)**

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 *Break Now the Bread of Life* (ELW 515)**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)**

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 Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
Amen.

**SENDING SONG** *We Know That Christ Is Raised* (ELW 449)

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

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**PREACHER / PRESIDER** .....The Reverend Kevin M.B. Tracey  
**MUSICIAN** .....Faith Woodward  
**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT** ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree  
**LECTOR** ..... Steve DeMott

**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  
Saturday ..... Thrift Shop Open ..... 10 - 2 PM  
Sunday ..... Worship Service with Nancy Scharff ..... 10 AM

## **Announcements**

If you forgot to bring in your school supplies for the **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**, please bring them in by tomorrow morning.

The **Thrift Shop** is having a **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE** this Saturday, August 9, with 50% off all children's clothing. Spread the word!

**We need your help** to create a new database and **CHURCH DIRECTORY**. The link has been included in the eblast the past several weeks. You can also scan the QR code below to be taken to the form. If you've been unable to complete the form, please call the church & Alice will fill it out with you on the phone.



Save the date for **FALL FEST** at St. Mark, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-3pm. Vendors, food, music, & fun. We need vendors! Know someone that might be interested? Go to our website for the interest form.

### **ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

436 N. Oak Ave, Clifton Heights, PA 190018

*Website: [www.stmarkcliftonheights.org](http://www.stmarkcliftonheights.org)*

*Email: [office@stmarkcliftonheights.org](mailto:office@stmarkcliftonheights.org)*

*Phone: 610-626-5295*