



the welcome place.

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Bulletin**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**  
**15<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 *Give Me Jesus* (ELW 770)**

**GREETING (ELW p. 120)**

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 (ELW p. 124)**

Let us pray.

**God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 113

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations;  
God’s glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

A reading from 1 Timothy.

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *From Where the Sun Rises* (W&P 40)**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *From Where the Sun Rises* (W&P 40)

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Commonwealth Is God's Commandment* (ACS 1036)

**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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 583)

**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 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (ELW 697)**

**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 (ELW p. 136)**

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 *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)**

**DISMISSAL**

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

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**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**PREACHER / PRESIDER** .....The Reverend Michael S. Poteet  
**MUSICIAN** .....Faith Woodward  
**TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT** ..... Edie Beaupre/Tom Petree  
**LECTOR** ..... Bonnie Tillman

## 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 .....	Life Center Meal .....	3 PM
Saturday .....	Outdoor Movie Night .....	6:30 PM
Sunday .....	Worship Service .....	10 AM
Sunday .....	Picnic .....	After Worship

## **Announcements**

Today we welcome The Rev. Michael S. Poteet as our preacher and presider. He is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mike served as pastor at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Clifton Heights from 1997 until 2004. He currently serves the larger church as a Christian education writer for Abingdon Press, and as a biblical storyteller and guest preacher. Mike invites your feedback, in person or at <https://bibliomike.com/>.

Join us for family friendly **OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT** this Saturday, Sept. 27. We'll be watching the new live action movie *Stitch*. Invite your family and friends!

We're looking forward to welcoming Mike Ghelardi to worship next Sunday, September 28th. Mike will talk with us a bit about what Thrivent is and how they can help you and your family – along with the services they offer St. Mark. After worship, we'll gather outside (or downstairs if there's bad weather) for a casual **PICNIC**. Council will cook hot dogs and hamburgers – please bring a side or dessert to share! You can let us know what you'll be bringing on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Our **FALL BIBLE STUDY** begins on October 1st. We'll be studying the book of Job in a series called: The Pain of Being Human: Are Suffering and Destruction in God's Plan? We'll be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7-8.15pm virtually (via Google Meet). Sign up to participate here: <https://forms.gle/ppRpWc4ebFwgNJXQA>  
We'll be inviting CLCC to join us as well! This will be a great opportunity to meet some of our Lutheran colleagues in the synod as we study scripture together.

Mark your calendars! St. Mark's annual **FALL BINGO** night is Saturday, October 18.

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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