



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Youth Sunday

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The September Noisy Offering collection will go to Wreaths Across America, chosen by Parish Ed.

Ushers - Emily & Justin Howe

Greeters - Lauren & Ella Polich



Upcoming Commemorations

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 835, vs. 1—4

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> <p>4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
|--|---|
- Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.
-

Greeting page 203

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 Pg. 203

CANTICLE OF PRAISE page 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21—Natalie Sublet

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ 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?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ '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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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:[1-7] 8-13—Brian Moore

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

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

- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³ 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—Henry Moore

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

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

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written,

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

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Gospel Acclamation pg. 205

Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 10th Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

Jesus welcomed and blessed the children.

¹³ People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



CHILDREN'S SERMON Blessing of the Backpacks

SERMON St. Mark's Youth Panel

BLESSING OF TEACHERS, STUDENTS, CONFIRMATION/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the marvels of your creation,

We praise you, O God.

For the opportunity to explore and study,

We praise you, O God.

For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

We praise you, O God.

Teach us your ways and guide us in your path,

For you are the creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

Amen.

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year, that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors.

Almighty God,

you give wisdom and knowledge.

Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,

And students the gift of diligence and openness,

That all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn,

That together we may know and follow your ways;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 650

In Christ There Is No East or West

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

APOSTLES 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.

A brief silence.

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, *like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today*, 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 (*especially*). 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 p. 206

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ELW 752

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

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 pg. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 208

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain



Text: African American spiritual

Now the Silence

Now the silence
Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling
Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome

Now the hearing
Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body
Now the blood

Now the joyful celebration

Now the wedding
Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation
Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing
Now
Now
Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919Text © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
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.

SENDING

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood for your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.
Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 544

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
glory be to God on high!
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,
by this eucharist declaring
yours the final victory.
- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,
ears attentive to your word;
by your blood new life receiving,

in your body, firm believing,
we are yours, and you the Lord.

- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,
we go forth alert and living
in your Spirit, strong and free.
Partners in your new creation,
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

The people of St. Mark's,
Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Roger Trester,
Clarence Linsey,
Lucas Niccoli,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Janet Schmidt,

Family & friends:

Mike Rex, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Sherry Anderson, friend of the Lathams,
Rhonda Bernie, cousin of Linda Cagle,
Shane & family, friends of Joe & Debbie Van Kempen,
Family of Sally Gieschen, friend of St. Mark's,
Adam, cousin of Nancy Bryer,
Nephew of Amanda Sibson,
Michel El Haddad, extended Fetsch family member,
Audrey Varner, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Mitch Shaffer, friend of Susan and Bob Fetsch,
Patty, friend of Vicki Larson,
Barry Hansen, cousin of Paula Quade,
Family of Irene, mother of Janet Krievins,
Garry Thomas, father of Mark Thomas,
Kathryn Young, cousin of Mark Schmideskamp,
Steve, cousin of Tom Bryer,
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewski,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,

Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
All People affected by natural disasters
Those in the Military:
A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen
Thompson,

