God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS

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

Please join us in congratulating Patricia Klima on accomplishing her extensive leadership training course in Stephen Ministries. She will be commissioned and receive her badge, with a reception to follow.

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 416, vs. 1 & 2

At the Name of Jesus

1 At the name of Jesus
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess him
king of glory now.
It is God's good pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

2 At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heav'nly orders
in their great array.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877

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

God of love,
giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHOIR

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

[1] The word of the LORD came to me: [2] What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? [3] As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4] Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

[25] Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is
my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? [26] When the righteous turn
away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the
iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. [27] Again, when the wicked turn
away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right,
they shall save their life. [28] Because they considered and turned away from all the
transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.
[29] Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel,
are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
[30] Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your
ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise
iniquity will be your ruin. [31] Cast away from you all the transgressions that you
have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!
Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32] For I have no pleasure in the death of any-
one, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of The Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

[1] To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
[2] **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
[3] Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
[4] **Show me your ways, O LORD,**
and teach me your paths.
[5] Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
[6] **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,**
for they are from everlasting.
[7] Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.
[8] **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;**

therefore you teach sinners in your way.
[9] You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

[1] If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, [2] make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. [5] Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
[6] who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
[7] but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
[8] he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
[9] Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
[10] so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11] and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
[12] Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with

fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of The Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation pg. 205
Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32
After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

[23] When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24] Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. [25] Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' [26] But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." [27] So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

[28] "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29] He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. [30] The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. [31] Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. [32] For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen
SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

Rite of Commissioning Stephen Leaders

Trish Klima

While today's service reminds our congregation that caring ministry is a part of the life of every Christian, it specifically recognizes those who are offering themselves to organize, teach and supervise our Stephen Ministers, the trained caregivers who will minister to hurting people in our congregation and community.

PRESENTATION

L (*to the Stephen Leader)* Trish, you have been trained at a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course and have been asked to serve as a Stephen Leader at St. Mark's. You are a gift of God to us, to lead us in this ministry of equipping and caring.

ADDRESS

L (*to the congregation)* As Christians who are a part of the priesthood of all believers, all of us are called to offer ourselves to our Lord in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us in Jesus Christ. But it is also our privilege to recognize and support those who are trained for specific ministries in this congregation; especially today at we recognize and affirm Stephen Ministry and those Stephen Leaders who will direct this ministry.

L (*to the Stephen Leader*) Because of your gifts, your calling, and your training, we charge you with these responsibilities.

- To build awareness of our growing Stephen Ministry
- To solicit the commitment of this congregation to Stephen Ministry at every opportunity
- To recruit, select, and train thoroughly as Stephen Ministers those members of this congregation whose gift it is to share one-to-one caring ministry
- To use the resources of our community as appropriate to enrich the training and ongoing supervision of Stephen Ministry in this congregation
- To work with the pastor of this congregation to identify members who could benefit from this confidential caring ministry
- To assign the trained caregiver who most appropriately fits a person's need
- To supervise these confidential caring relationships and offer regular opportunities for continuing growth in the skills and practice of caring ministry

VOWS

Trish, will you assume this ministry in the confidence that comes from God?

Response **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

L Will you nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, build up, and heal people in all their needs?

Response **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

L (*to the congregation*) Members of St. Mark's, will you open your hearts to the ministry of this Stephen Leader and pray for her as a servant of Christ?

Response **Yes, with the help of God.**

L (*to the pastor*) Pastor Kris, will you support the ministry of this trained Stephen Leader, affirm the training of Stephen Ministers, carefully refer trained caregivers to those in need of supportive ministry, encourage confidentiality, and thereby help to 'equip the saints' for ministry?

Response **Yes, with the help of God.**

PRAYER

L Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have called Trish Klima to lead us into new paths of caring ministry. You have gifted and empowered her for this task. Grant her joy in her service and a spirit of bold trust in you, that her ministry may stir us to greater caring and more fruitful service. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of this ministry, so that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your good and gracious will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING AND SHARING OF PEACE

(*The Stephen Leader may kneel.)*

L May the Lord of the church fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide, bless, and keep you, so that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called, gifted, trained, and sent.

C Amen.

L Go in peace.

L As Trish Klima returns to her seat, greet her and your neighbors with the peace of the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 818

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, 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.
Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (*especially*). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. 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 517

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

ELW 462

Now We Join in Celebration

1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.

2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

3 Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 665, vs. 1 & 2

Rise, Shine, You People!

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

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:
Billy Howe, friend of Dave & Janie Best,
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,
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,