

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School!

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Mark's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness through Jesus.

Explore our website! You'll find materials for:

- Worship
- Bible Studies
- Devotions
- Children's Sunday School

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: “Did God really say?” That temptation has been around as long as faith has been. God tells us something, and we have faith that it’s true—we believe! But because of sin we always have to wrestle with doubt. Doubt in God’s care naturally brings with it fear and despair and wavering, especially in the midst of trials. God’s answer to such doubt: his power. He’s proven it numerous times in the past, and he’ll prove it again with everything he’s promised us. He’ll follow through—he always does! It’s confidence in that fact that guides the Christian to answer doubt with faith.

PRELUDE

Jesus, Still Lead On

David Cherwien

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Lead Us On

Christian Worship #422

1. **Jesus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand To our fatherland.**
2. **If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us,
For through many a woe To our home we go.**
3. **When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.**
4. **Jesus, still lead on Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly Leader, still direct us; Still support, console, protect us
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.**

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY *(no musical introduction)*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

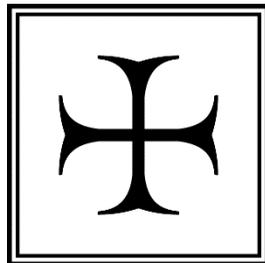


on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.



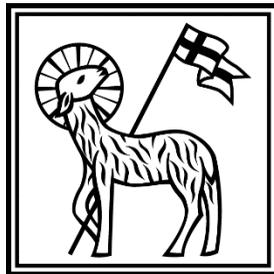
PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved
Christian Worship #384
verses 1-4

1. **By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why waver at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain: By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**
2. **By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought him from his heav'nly throne.**
3. **By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise When you are by your sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience, And when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend God by his grace to you did send.**
4. **By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried—
By grace, despite all fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:10-31

Look at the doubt and fear that seized the Israelites as Egypt pursued. Look also at the sure deliverance God provided and the faith that resulted.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

continued...

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

ANTHEM

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Sung by quartet

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

SECOND LESSON

James 1:2-8, 12

James reveals what kind of person doubts the Lord and encourages us instead to persevere in faith.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 11:1

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

He was walking on the water with Jesus! Yet doubt still overtook Peter. Jesus' response to him should ring in our hearts as well.

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

continued...

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Still, My Soul
Christian Worship #415

1. Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.
3. Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
Then you will better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.
4. Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be Still. The Lord Fights for You.

(musical introduction)

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be placed in the basket on the Table, or you can mail your thank offering to the church, or give online through our website under the "Resources" tab. The QR Code to the giving link is at the end of the bulletin.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. All the stars, the sun and moon, all energies and forces, the sea and clouds are messengers of your wonder and might. For your creation, we praise you, O Father. We pray for your Church and your people. Grant us ministers and teachers who are led by your Spirit and earnestly hold forth your Word of Life. Save us from all false prophets and deceitful guides that we, being knit together in love, may with one mind strive for the truth of your Word.

Guard and defend our homes, that parents may be kept in the bonds of love and rule their children well, nourishing them in truth and righteousness.

Bestow your favor on all useful labor in industry and agriculture, education and science, the professions and the arts, that in their advancement your people may prosper.

We pray for all who may be ill in body, mind, or spirit; for all who may be in danger; for all who may be in anxiety or perplexity; for all who may be suffering disappointment or defeat. Be present with them in their afflictions, show them the way out of all their troubles, and save them for your mercy's sake.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

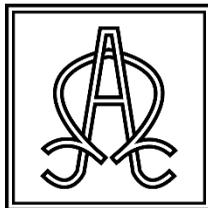
Silent prayer.

M: Heavenly Father, you did not spare your own Son but freely gave him up for us all.

C: Mercifully grant these and all other acceptable petitions that you read in our hearts in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



HYMN

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

Christian Worship #433

1. **Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
2. **As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild.
Boist'rous waves obey thy will
When thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
3. **When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on thy breast,
May I hear thee say to me,
"Fear not! I will pilot thee."**

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Sung by quartet

Go in the Grace of the Lord

*Words and Music by James Barnard
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*Go in the grace of the Lord.
Walk in the way of His Word.
Stand in the strength of His promises,
and believe in your heart they are true.*

*Sit at the feet of the Savior.
Pray in the power of the Spirit.
Rise and run the race with patience,
and go in the grace of the Lord.*

*Go in hope, God's hope.
Go in peace, God's peace.
Go in joy, everlasting joy!
As you live in the fullness of His love.
Go in the grace of the Lord.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

By Grace I'm Saved

Donald Busarow

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Order of Service: *"The common Service" from Christian Worship, Texts revised from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Music from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, revised by James Engel.*

Scripture Quotations: *From the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984; 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite. Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–88, abr.*

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Brock Groth

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

Quartet: Larry Dilgard, Greg Meyer, Greg Pluckhan, Greg Thiesfeldt

Altar Flowers: Flowers beautifying the altar have been placed by Sue Covey in memory of Rick.

Children's Sunday School—*Materials available online*

Today's lesson, "The Egypt Exit," tells of ten terrible plagues and how Pharaoh relents and releases the Israelites to worship in the wilderness. Realizing the Israelites have no intention of returning, Pharaoh's army pursues the runaways. Caught between Pharaoh's charioteers and the waters of the Red Sea, the people cry out to God. Moses stretches his hand over the sea as God parts the waters, enabling the people to pass through the sea on dry ground. As Egypt's army attempts to follow, the sea closes in over them, so not one survives. As a family, *talk about the ways God protects us from our enemies today.*

Adult & Teen Bible Studies

- **The Book of Matthew:** Led by Pastor Kolander.
- **Teen Class:** Led by Pastor Groth via Zoom at 11:00am.

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

Today	9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
Next Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Samuel Joseph	<i>Aug 23</i>	
Jacob Kluncker	<i>Aug 24</i>	
Phillip Wright Jr.		
Sue Covey	<i>Aug 25</i>	
Jim Oswald		
Michelle LeMay	<i>Aug 26</i>	
Keith Williamson	<i>Aug 28</i>	Alexander & Barbara Wiegel
		Keith & Donna Williamson
Earl Born	<i>Aug 29</i>	
Cristy Covey		
Jim Olson		



St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: stmarks7869

Sunday Services at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Children's Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
Adult & Teen Sunday Bible Classes from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Monday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:30 a.m.

Jonathan Kolander	Pastor
Brock Groth	Pastor
Darren Vogt	Principal, Grades 6-8
Hannah Stegman	Grades 3-5
Rosemarie Boushek	Grades 1-2
Judy Thrans	Kindergarten
Greg Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8
Lisa Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 3-8
Ruth Vogt	Art
Dena Oswald	Ext. School Day Care

Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel