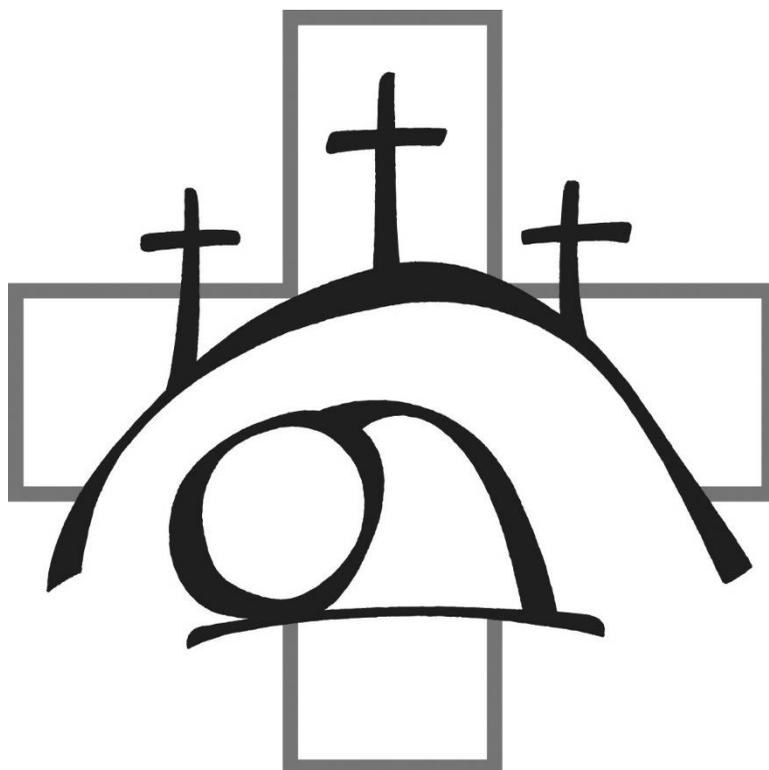


# **CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

**September 13, 2020**



**GLORIFY HIM ...  
GROW IN HIM ...  
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

# 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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 to us through Jesus.

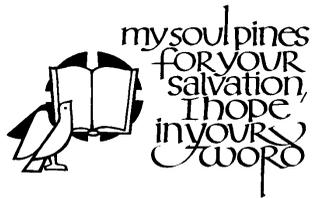
We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

### Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

We do have LARGE PRINT copies of the Bulletin, you will find them on the table with the Bulletins;

Holy Communion is offered on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. We ask that only WELS & ELS members partake of the Sacrament. Our Pastors are willing to speak to why this is the case, please contact one of them.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmarksch](https://facebook.com/stmarksch); follow us on Instagram: [Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran](https://Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran); Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: [vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch](https://vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch).

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Worship Focus:** Do you have good intentions? Pick a topic and ask yourself the question. When it comes to worship traditions, for example, our intentions may be good but what can make good intentions not the case? The Lord does not mince words - that which takes the focus off of Him and puts it on self is not sound practice no matter how good the intentions. God help us examine our intentions on all fronts. Blessings be evident as we worship Him.

## PRELUDE

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*John Carter*

## HYMN

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Christian Worship # 234*

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;  
Gladly forever adore him!**

## INVOCATION

**Minister:** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation:** Amen. Let all within me praise the Lord.

## RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Lamentations 3

**M:** ... this I call to mind

**C:** and therefore I have hope:

M: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

**C: They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

M: I say to myself,

**C: "The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him."**

M: The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him ... Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,

**C: so great is his unfailing love.**

M: For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men

**C: Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation;

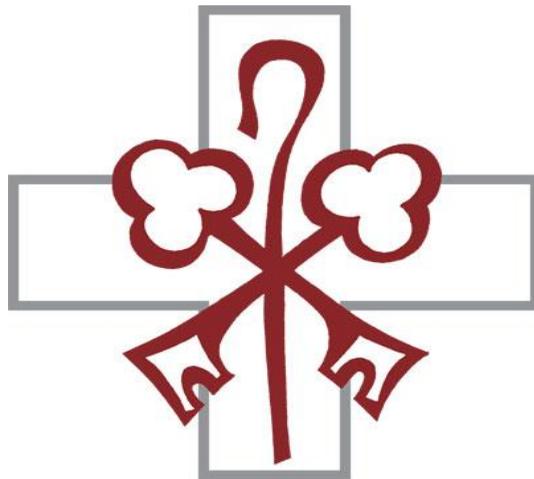
**C: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

**Judges 16:22-31**

*God's mercy is evident here as Samson is able to repent of his sinful ways. Samson is considered a hero of faith. Are you one?*

<sup>22</sup> But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. <sup>23</sup> Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." <sup>24</sup> When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." <sup>25</sup> While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, <sup>26</sup> Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." <sup>27</sup> Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. <sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." <sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup> Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived. <sup>31</sup> Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.



PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 73  
Christian Worship page 94

*Refrain*



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

*Psalm tone*



\*

I am always with you, O LORD;\*  
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,\*  
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?\*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,\*  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

**Galatians 6:12-16**

*Have you made anyone feel guilty for not advocating the same worship customs you prefer? Do customs bring us closer to God?*

<sup>12</sup> Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

<sup>13</sup> Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

<sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.

<sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.

## HYMN

**Salvation unto Us Has Come**

*Christian Worship # 390*

**Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is the one Redeemer.**

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by his grace—All glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed your saving love;  
Your blessed name be hallowed!**

*Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.*

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 16:21-26**

*What have you had to forego being a follower of Jesus?.*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find

it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise be to you, O Christ.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**

*Christian Worship # 465*

**Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.**

**Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—Show your face, and all is bright.**

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory; God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story; Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

## **SERMON**

**Based on Galatians 6:12-16**

**“Jesus Gives You Something To Boast About”**

## **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.  
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.

## 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: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

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

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## **SMALL GROUP ANTHEM**

**Is He Worthy?**

*(Congregation is invited to join on the bold-faced words)*

Do You feel the world is broken? **We Do.**

Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We Do.**

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the Light from getting through? **We Do!**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We Do.**

Is all creation groaning? **It is.**

Is a new creation coming? **It is.**  
Is the glory of the LORD to be the light within our midst? **It is!**  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.**

*Refrain: Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*  
**Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?**  
**The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave---**  
**He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.**  
**Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing, honor and glory?**  
**Is He worthy of this? He is!!**

Does the Father truly love us? **He does.**  
Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.**  
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those he loves? **He does!**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.**

*Refrain: Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?*  
**Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?**  
**The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave---**  
**He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.**  
**From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue,**  
**He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.**  
**Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing, honor and glory?**  
**Is He worthy of this? He is! He is worthy!**

## **PRAYER**

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

## **BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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 HYMN

**God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It**  
*Christian Worship Supplement # 737*

**God's own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free,  
Lasting to eternity!**

**Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation;  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!**

**There is nothing worth comparing  
To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring:  
Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ;  
I'm a child of paradise!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

**God's Own Child, I'll Gladly Say It**  
*Kevin Hildebrand*

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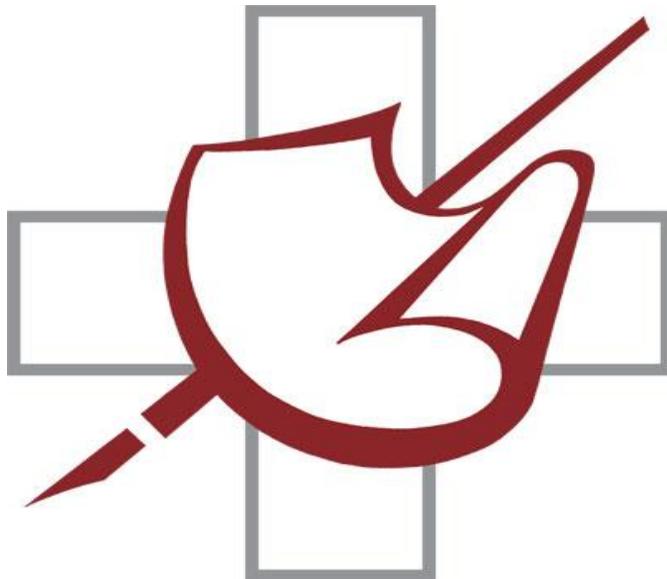
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### For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

What was the secret to the strength Samson had been given? What had gotten the best of Samson which landed him in a bad situation? What has gotten the best of you? Where did Samson know he could turn to even after he had messed up? Forgiven yet consequences ... elaborate on that thought. See Hebrews 11.

Recall the background for Paul writing Galatians (see ch 1). What faulty logic do people have when it comes to getting right with God, if even concerned about this? How can good intentions regarding worship end up being a stumbling block to faith? How does a believer go about boasting in the cross of Christ? See 1 Corinthians 1.

In what ways can our earthly life change on a dime? Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? What was Peter missing when it came to Jesus? How does one deny self; and for what purpose? See 1 Peter 1.



# TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

## Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

Altar Flowers: Flowers beautifying the altar have been placed by The Williamson's in celebration of their grand daughter Hailey's birthday!!!

## Children's Sunday School—*Materials Available Online*

Today, we will study "A Judge Leads." God called Gideon to lead His chosen people against their Midianite enemies. God leads Gideon to reduce his army from 32,000 men to a mere 300. Reassured by the Lord, Gideon moves forward with God's improbable plan. Armed with only torches and trumpets, Gideon's mini army defeats the mighty Midianite force without lifting a sword. *Discuss ways God can use even small groups of people to accomplish great things.*

## Adult & Teen Bible Studies

- **Personalizing Salvation - Law & Gospel:** 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:*

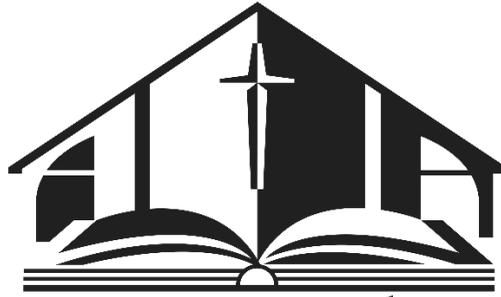


## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

### Weekly Calendar

Today	9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Service
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Board of Child Discipleship Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council Meeting
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	School Chapel Video online
Next Sunday		Holy Communion

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Jenny Kolander	<i>Sept 13</i>	
Dan Moller	<i>Sept 14</i>	
Jeanette Waterstradt	<i>Sept 15</i>	Remen Mushi & Patricia Rugaik
		Greg & Sherry Wiese
	<i>Sept 16</i>	Terry & Pamela Drennon
Ryan Hopping	<i>Sept 17</i>	
Zoey Malone		
Keith Smith		
Nita Ross	<i>Sept 18</i>	



# St. Mark's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

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Citrus Heights, California 95610

Phone: (916) 961-7891 Fax: (916) 961-5034

Website: [www.StMarksLutheran.com](http://www.StMarksLutheran.com)

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**