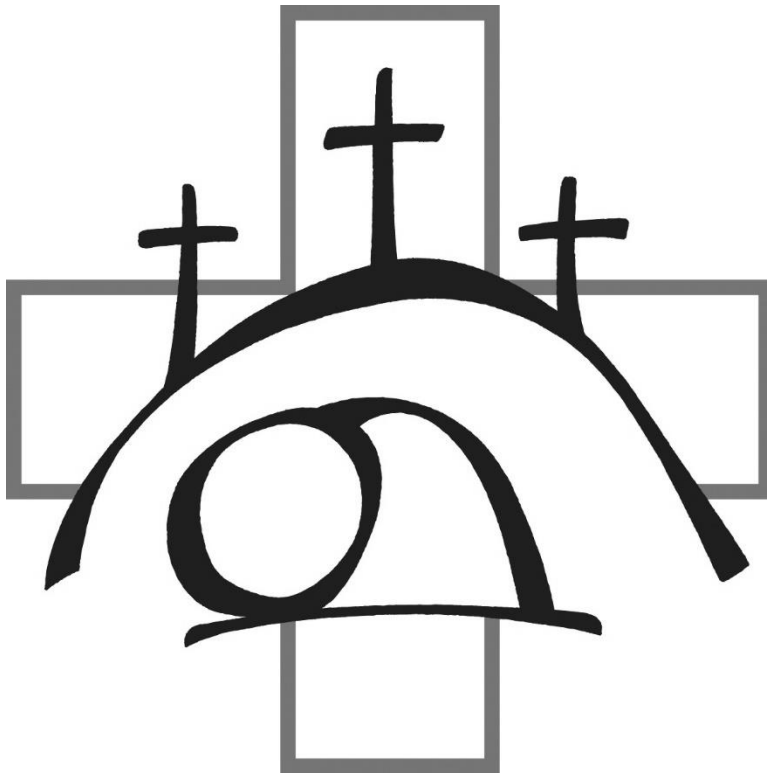


# **CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

**September 27, 2020**



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

# 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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.

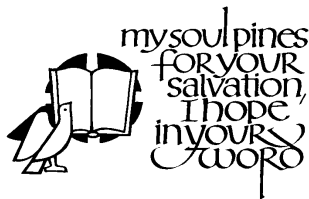
We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

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:** What is something in your house or in your mind that you are holding on to, and why? What would happen if you were to let go of that something? When it comes to bitterness and rage and sin, the Lord tells us point blank to not hold on to it for such is not good for us or for others, including our relationship with Him. God help us see what is holding us back from truly living with His forgiveness which includes being willing to forgive others and not dwell on the negative. God be praised for His mercy, new each day.

## PRELUDE

**May the Mind of Christ My Savior**

*Arr. Zach Unke*

## OPENING HYMN

*(intro)*

**Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain**

*Christian Worship # 106*

*Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows to you, to me, to all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.*

*Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white; You shall walk with God in light.*

*Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore; He that drinks shall thirst no more.*

*He that drinks shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.*

Minister: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen. Praise be to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## HYMN

*(intro)*

**Forgive Us, Lord**

*Christian Worship # 482*

*Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,*

*For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,  
While of your richer gifts we're unaware.*

*Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,  
For words that speak at variance with deeds.  
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,  
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs.*

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.**

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: Amen. Thanks be to God for His mercy and forgiveness.**

*(intro, 482)*

*Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,  
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
For Christ, your Son, and for each human face  
That shows your message ever new and near.*

*Open our eyes to see your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.  
Let thankful days in loving labor spent  
Reflect the truly Christlike life and light.*

M: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work;

**C: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Psalm 119 and James 1

M: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.**

M: Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

**C: Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.**

M: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

**C: Preserve my life according to your word.**

M: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for human anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

**C: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 50:15-21**

*Guilt is a powerful motivator; it also can be crippling. Joseph provides a way for us to reassure people dealing with guilt.*

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. <sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

### HYMN

*(intro)*

### Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*Christian Worship # 493*

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"  
You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say.*

### SECOND LESSON

**Ephesians 4:29-5:2**

*God lays out clear expectations for us, including a message on forgiveness.*

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*(intro, 493)*

***How can your pardon reach and bless  
The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let  
Old bitterness depart?***

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

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

*Why should God forgive you? Why should you be forgiving of others? This is a valuable reminder for us all.*

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**" <sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. <sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' <sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup> "**This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.**"

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

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

*(intro, 493)*

*In blazing light your cross reveals  
The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us;  
How great our debt to you!*

## **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.**

*(intro, 493)*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
And bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love  
Our lives will spread your peace.*

**SERMON**

**Based on Ephesians 4:29-5:2**

**“Clean Out The Closet”**

*In hopelessness and near despair, I cry to you, my Savior!  
My guilt is more than I can bear. I have not earned your favor.  
You know me as I really am: How much is truth, how much is sham;  
Why should you heed my pleading?*

*I tremble as I feel your hand, Expecting retribution,  
Yet hear no curse or reprimand, But grace and absolution:  
With you there is forgiveness, Lord, You speak the sweet, consoling Word,  
And I am sure you love me!*

*Forgiven, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to render  
A gift to glorify your name, Love to reflect your splendor:  
This world must know what I have learned, That you bestow what none has earned:  
The joy of full forgiveness!*

## **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: Grant us, O Lord, to live each day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the evenings victorious over all temptation, we may praise you, the eternal God, for you govern all things and are praised now and forever. Make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred,

**C: let us sow love;**

M: where there is injury,

**C: pardon;**

M: where there is doubt,

**C: faith;**

M: where there is despair,

**C: hope;**

M: where there is darkness,

**C: light;**



M: where there is sadness,

**C: joy.**

M: O Lord, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;

**C: for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

## **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.**

## **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. Thanks be to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*(intro)*

**May the Mind of Christ My Savior**

*Christian Worship # 467*

*May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,  
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.*

*May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r.*

*May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in ev'rything,  
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.*

*May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting, self abasing—This is victory!*

*May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.*

*May his spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

## Great is the LORD

*Jack Schrader*

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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. Hymn 738 Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **Scripture Quotations:** From the *Holy Bible, New International Version* (NIV 2011), copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984; 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

### **For Reflection based on Today’s Scripture Readings ...**

What could have Joseph held against his family? What had Joseph come to realize over the years? What had the brothers had gnawing at them through the years? What lessons do you take from this account? See Psalms 32 & 51.

What serves as the motivation to live our lives the way God points out here in Ephesians? Note some passages to back up your answer. Why still the struggle to put these words into practice (note the threats in your way)? See 2 Corinthians 5:14,15.

Why so much forgiveness, who has earned it? These words are easier said than done, or to read than practice; so what needs to take place? Recall the ‘long’ definition of ‘repentance.’ If you are not willing to ‘let go’ (forgive), then what can you expect to be the result? Discuss the difference between ‘forgiveness’ and ‘consequences.’ Consequences still do not give a license for what? See 1 John 1:5-10.

# TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

## Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

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

Today's lesson, "A King Forever," looks forward to our forever King, Jesus. God sends Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel, with the reminder, "The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). God rejects each of Jesse's sons, so Samuel sends for the youngest, David, whom God has chosen to become the greatest king of Israel. Surviving Saul's insane jealousy, David becomes king and establishes Jerusalem as his stronghold. *As a family, talk about how God used David to unite His people and how Jesus will unite all believers.*

## 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:*

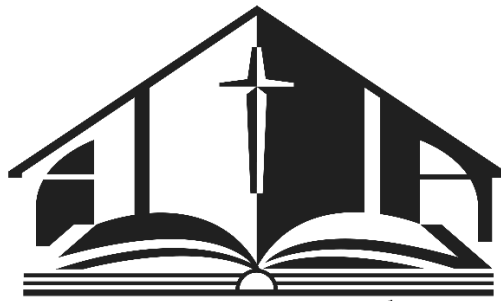


# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

## Weekly Calendar

Today	9:30 a.m.	Outdoor Service
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	Chapel Video Message
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Joy of Living Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Digging Deeper
Next Sunday		Communion

<i><b>Birthdays</b></i>		<i><b>Anniversaries</b></i>
Tajuana Brown	<i>Sept 27</i>	
Deborah Crago		
Laurie Gunter		
Barbara Gunter	<i>Sept 28</i>	
Dennis Metzler	<i>Sept 29</i>	
Pam Egle	<i>Oct 1</i>	Frank & Penny Beaushaw
Kathy Gaines-Le		Ryan & Rebekkah McCurry
		Len & Shirley Sampaio
Kristie Ehrhardt	<i>Oct 3</i>	



# St. Mark's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

7869 Kingswood Drive  
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**