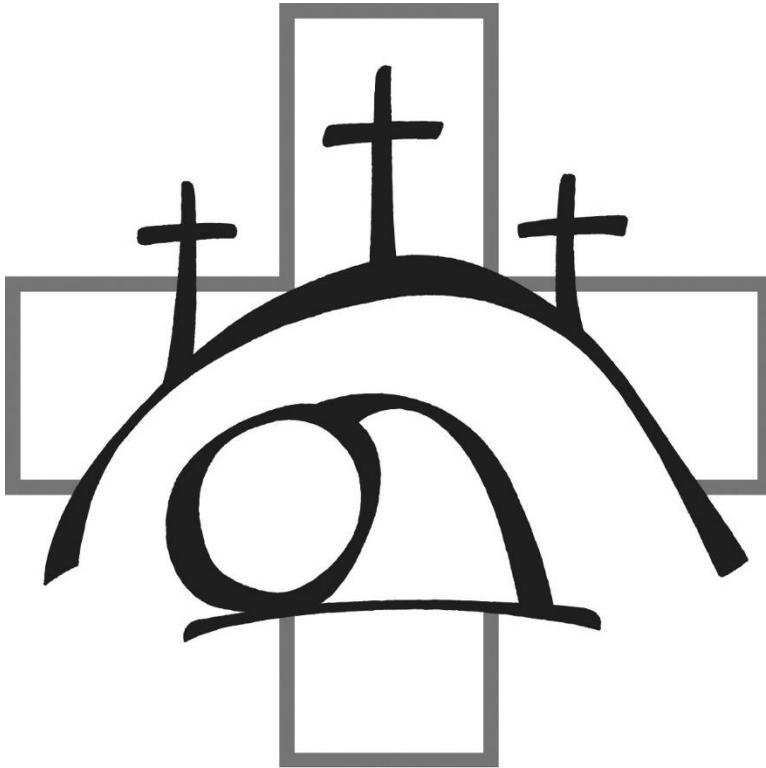


CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

October 25, 2020



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

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 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).

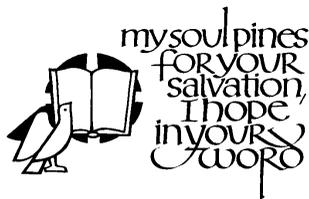
May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

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;

Personal hearing assistance devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th 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; follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: What is the big deal ... life goes on, people die, and then nothing ... or is there something more to it? There is more to it while living in the flesh on earth and upon our death; there is eternal pain or pleasure. The time to secure eternal pleasure is now while in the flesh. God's grace makes this possible. At the heart of such grace is the Gospel, the message of what Jesus has done for people because of grace. Celebrate once again God's grace in Jesus in your life today and beyond.

PRELUDE

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Jan Sanborn

OPENING HYMN

From All that Dwell below the Skies

Christian Worship # 250

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

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.**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind;

C: through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

2 Chronicles 30:1-5, 10-22

There is only one way to be in God's presence, and it is not by our works; it is through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. ²The king and his officials and the whole assembly in Jerusalem decided to celebrate the Passover in the second month. ³They had not been able to celebrate it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. ⁴The plan seemed right both to the king and to the whole assembly.

⁵ They decided to send a proclamation throughout Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, calling the people to come to Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. It had not been celebrated in large numbers according to what was written. ¹⁰ The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but people scorned and ridiculed them. ¹¹ Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. ¹² Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the LORD. ¹³ A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. ¹⁴ They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley. ¹⁵ They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the LORD. ¹⁶ Then they took up their regular positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests splashed against the altar the blood handed to them by the Levites. ¹⁷ Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs to the LORD. ¹⁸ Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the LORD, who is good, pardon everyone ¹⁹ who sets their heart on seeking God—the LORD, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.” ²⁰ And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people. ²¹ The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests praised the LORD every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the LORD. ²² Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites, who showed good understanding of the service of the LORD. For the seven days they ate their assigned portion and offered fellowship offerings and praised the LORD, the God of their ancestors.



Refrain



The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

Psalm tone



The LORD is my shepherd,*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*

he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley

of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD 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

Romans 11:1-10

Grace, all God's grace. Does God need to say more?

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ²God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³"Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? ⁴And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." ⁵So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. ⁷What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, ⁸as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day." ⁹And David says: "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. ¹⁰May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever."

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Psalm 119

M: Your Word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

C: Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

M: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C: I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

We do not invite ourselves into heaven. Heaven is a big deal!

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all

the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. ¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: TAKEN FROM THE ATHANASIAN CREED

M: Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever. Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

M: For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

C: And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

M: Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity. It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh. Now this is the true Christian faith:

C: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is both God and man.

M: He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

C: and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

M: one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

C: He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

M: At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

C: This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace I'm Saved
Christian Worship # 384

**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.**

**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.**

*(solo) 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.*

**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?**

**By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice.
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad; all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.**

SERMON

Based on Romans 11:1-10

“By God's Grace Without Question”

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Ephesians 2

M: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -

C: **not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the basket on the Table, 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: Dear God, heavenly Father, how great is your love for us! You willingly sent your beloved Son to a world of sinful rebels. The innocent one came to serve the guilty, but his own people rejected him, and his enemies tortured him and put him to death. Because you did not withhold your one and only Son but let him take our guilt on himself to set us free, we praise your holy name.

C: Dear Son of God, our brother, how great is your love for us! You allowed yourself to be condemned so that we could be declared not guilty. Give us the same single-minded dedication and unshakable commitment as we daily take up our cross and follow you.

M: Dear Holy Spirit, how great is your love for us! By Word and Sacrament you have warmed and transformed our foolish and stubborn hearts, making us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and bringing us to his gospel of forgiveness. Lead us to love and serve our neighbor as unselfishly as Christ did.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: And we also pray ...

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

Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations

Christian Worship # 577

**May our zeal to help the heathen Be increased from day to day,
As we plead in true compassion And for their conversion pray.
For the many faithful workers, For the gospel they proclaim,
Let us all be cheerful givers To the glory of your name.**

**Savior, shine in all your glory On the nations near and far;
From the highways and the byways Call them forth, O Morning Star.
Guide them whom your grace has chosen Out of Satan's dreadful thrall
To the mansions of your Father – There is room for sinners all.**

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

CLOSING HYMN

You Are the Way; through You Alone
Christian Worship # 356

**You are the way; through you alone Can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone True wisdom can impart.
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

By Grace I'm Saved
Robby Robinson

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

What excuse do people use for not attending on a regular basis worship with fellow believers? What did Hezekiah realize was missing among God's people and what steps did he take to remedy the matter? How did some people react to his plan? What example can we take away from Hezekiah? What can help you with your regular worship habit? See Psalms 100 & 122.

Who was to blame for OT Israel's captivity situation? Why then did some then, and people today, blame God for how their life turned out? How did God show His compassion for Israel, and does for all people today? The key word in this Romans section is what? Explain what that word all implies. What should we not be surprised happens in spite of God's compassion and grace? See Psalm 32 and Ephesians 2.

What has God prepared for people? Why would people reject what He has to offer them? How intense is God about what He has prepared? What is our role with what has been prepared? As we do what you answered, what do we need to keep in mind? Read 1 John, a chapter a day during the week.

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek

Content requiring a copyright license is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-711071. All rights reserved.

- **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: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite. Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt. Text: German hymn, 17th century; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt. Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Children's Sunday School—Study at Home Sunday School

Crossing the Red Sea – Exodus 13:17-15:2

Here's the online link if you need: <https://online.npb.net/ss-at-home>

Adult & Teen Bible Studies

- **Personalizing Salvation - Law & Gospel:** Led by Pastor Kolander.
- **Teen Class:** Led by Mike Rausch via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

Today	8:00 a.m.	Indoor Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Outdoor Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders Meeting
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service Video
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Joy of Living Women's Bible Study
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	LWMS Rally presentation
Next Sunday		Communion
		Mission Box Offering

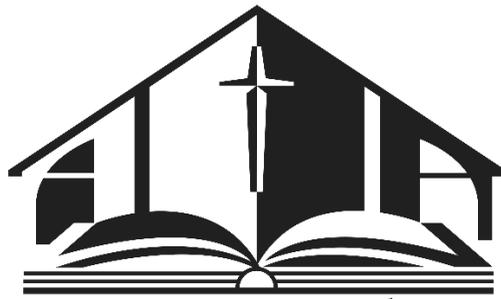
<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Toni Wright	<i>Oct 27</i>	
Gordon Flowers	<i>Oct 28</i>	
Emma Jones		
Jill Doolittle	<i>Oct 30</i>	

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:





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
St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: [stmarks7869](#)

Sunday Services in October: 8:00 (in) & 10:00 (out) a.m.
Children's Sunday School --- Materials sent to the homes
Adult Bible Study 9:15-9:45 ... Teen Bible Discussion at 7:00 p.m. (online)
Monday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m. (on hold in October)
Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:30 a.m. (pre-recorded).

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