

CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for October 1, 2023



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

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELS†NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations

Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship 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:

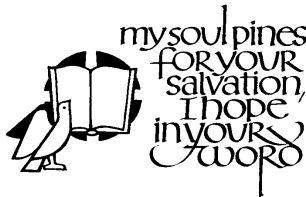
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

We do have **LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service; they can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Hymns from 'Christian Worship' (CW) are in the 'red' book / 'Christian Worship Supplement' (CWS) in the 'blue' 'Christian Worship' New (CWN) is our 2021 Edition (not yet in the Pens)

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. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



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: Accountability, Responsibility, Humility ... All good traits for people to put into practice, starting with ourselves and then encouraging others to do the same. Think of what is missing in our current society, which again is nothing new; however, if we could put such traits into practice on a consistent basis imagine what life would be like. God does know what He is talking about. What will it take for people to listen to Him? Let us continue to listen, and to practice such traits.

PRELUDE

Oh, Worship the King

Benjamin Culli

Greeting & 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: And also with you.

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

(Ps 84)

C: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD.

M: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

C: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

M: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

C: O LORD Almighty, blessed are they who trust in you.

M: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

C: Let us worship Him.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Oh, Worship the King

Christian Worship (red) # 243

**Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above; Oh, gratefully sing his pow'r and his love,
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy, space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree, And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In you do we trust nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

C: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

(1 John 4)

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

All: 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, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

(no musical introduction)

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in

all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,

you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and

ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

M: We pray. Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you;

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



A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Each person is accountable for their actions. Here is a call to repent.

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. ²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ³⁰“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Christian Worship Supplement p. 57

See page 13 of the Service Bulletin

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-11

Jesus was not thinking of just Himself to do what He did; there is an example in that for us.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction

You Are the Way; through You Alone

Christian Worship (red) # 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.**

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus does not play games when it comes to putting the focus where it needs to be.

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’” ²⁹ “I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 8

O God of Mercy, God of Might

Christian Worship # 499

**O God of mercy, God of might, In love and mercy infinite,
Teach us, as ever in your sight, To live our lives to you.**

**You sent your Son for all to die That fallen man might live thereby.
Oh, hear us, for to you we cry In hope, O Lord, to you.**

**Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: To feel for those his blood has bought,
That ev'ry deed and word and thought May work a work for you.**

**All are redeemed, both far and wide, Since Jesus Christ for all has died;
Grant us the will, and grace provide, To love them all in you.**

**In sickness, sorrow, want, or care May we each other's burdens share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as though to you.**

**And may your Holy Spirit move All those who live to live in love
Till you receive in heav'n above All those who lived for you.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

“Imitate Christ's Humility”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – FROM THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.**

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

HYMN – Thank Offering Prayer

Musical Introduction

Lord of All Good

Christian Worship # 483

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring you now;
Use them your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to your will.**

**We give our minds to understand your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great design;
Hearts with the flame of your own love ablaze—
Thus for your glory all our pow'rs combine.**

**Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy on behalf of your people.

C: **We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who has ascended into heaven and sits at your right hand.**

M: We rejoice in the knowledge that he is our advocate before your throne and that he intercedes for us in all our needs.

C: **Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truths.**

M: Give to all who serve your holy Church a full measure of your grace that Christ may be confessed, his cross uplifted, and his gospel declared as the only way to eternal life. Bless all parents that they may be wholesome examples to their children.

C: **May they teach their children to love you, to practice virtue, to desire to pursue instruction in your Word, and to serve your Church and all people.**

M: Hear the prayers of all who are afflicted. In the quiet hour of the night, when they are weighed down with pain, loneliness, and anxiety, bring them strength and hope by assuring them that your love endures, your power overcomes, and your presence remains constant.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

M: As we leave this hour of worship, we give all glory to Jesus.

C: **To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. Amen.**

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

No Musical Introduction



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

The Ushers will direct Communicants by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Communion Assistant. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be placed on the backside of the Rail. If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west side, right to left. When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher or the Pastor know of this.

As a reminder: Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members and those who spoke with the Pastor ahead of time partake of the Sacrament. In the future, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor following the Service / during the week.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Christian Worship # 309

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.**

**He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.**

**Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 12

O Lord, We Praise You

Christian Worship # 317

**O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and adore you,
In thanksgiving bow before you.
Here with your body and your blood you nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish. O Lord, have mercy!
May your body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry, And your blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!**

**Your holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.**

**No greater love than this to you could bind us;
May this feast of that remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, your love and kindness did move you;
Let your supper move us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
Peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mercy!**

**May God bestow on us his grace and favor
To please him with our behavior
And live together here in love and union,
Cherishing our blest communion. O Lord, have mercy!
Let not your good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded he make us. Give your Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity. O Lord, have mercy!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Jack Schrader

Psalm 118

Refrain



Psalm Tone



The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

“The LORD’S right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’S right hand has done mighty things!”

I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

Flowers: The flowers at the altar are from the McCurry's in celebration of their 17th Wedding Anniversary!

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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 ...

1st: What are some consequences that impact the next generation due to actions done by the 'previous' generation? Though there is sin in the past and present, what cannot be used as an excuse for personal sin? Read Psalm 78.

2nd: Put in your own words what Paul is saying in verses 1-2. The motivation for living this Christ-light life is what? What words tie in with the Lord's desire for all people? Read Psalm 119:129-144.

3rd: What is the call to repentance in this section? Why couldn't the religious leaders answer the question in verse 25? Finish the thought: God help us not be like... Read Romans 2.

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

Today		LWMS Mission Box Offering
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Jesus Cares Worship
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service (in the Admin Building Chapel)
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Board of Child Discipleship
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	10:00 a.m.	Grief Share 2
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Class
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Starting Point Class 3
Sunday		LWMS Mission Box Offering
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Catechism
	5:30 p.m.	Open Gym in the MPC

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Kathy Gaines-Le	<i>Oct 1</i>	Frank & Penny Beaushaw
		Ryan & Rebekkah McCurry
Aidan Faljean	<i>Oct 3</i>	
Ella Davies	<i>Oct 4</i>	
Ava Hinaman		
Christopher Tipton		
Linda Lane	<i>Oct 5</i>	
Kim Butler	<i>Oct 6</i>	
Marlys O'Riordan	<i>Oct 7</i>	Dan & Kim Cummins

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 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.
Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel
Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (Live streamed) ... Teens in the Teen Room
Monday Evening Service at 6:30 PM in the Adm Building Chapel
Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:20 a.m.

Pastor: Jonathan Kolander Principal: Darren Vogt