



Welcome to St. Mark's! We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all. We especially welcome those who are worshiping with us for the first time and invite you to join us again.

Attendance Register - Please sign and pass the black-covered "Attendance Register" found at the end of each pew. If you are visiting St. Mark's today, please include your address and contact information. Thank you!

Nursery - St. Mark's nursery is open for infants through 4 year old children whose parents are in worship or Faith Formation each Sunday morning from 8:15 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. We have two wonderful and devoted staff members, Sara Barone and Jenny Horton, assisted with many caring volunteers to watch over our youngest members and visitors. The nursery is located downstairs at the end of the hallway, near the back entrance (please ask ushers for assistance).

GREETERS: Justin, Heather, Cooper and Raelynn Grebe

LECTOR: Tonya Mays

ACOLYTE: Cooper Grebe

***CONGREGATION STANDS**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

454 Fieldstone Road Mooresville, North Carolina

Church Office Phone 704-664-5474

Pastor: Rev. Dave Keck

Associate Pastor: Rev. Vern Kinard

Director of Music: Robbie Pearson

Organist: Priscilla Abraham

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 3, 2021 - 8:30 AM

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*HYMN *"Let the Whole Creation Cry"* # 876

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Page 211

*KYRIE Page 213

*GLORY TO GOD Page 214

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

THE FIRST READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

A Reading From (Bible page 970)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, *"What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet."*

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, *“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”*

Here ends the reading.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia”

page 216

***THE GOSPEL**

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

But in these last days he has spoken to us by the Son.

He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,

And He sustains all things by His powerful Word. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 10th chapter. (Mark 10:2-16)

Glory to you, O Lord!

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

*HYMN OF THE DAY *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* #781

*APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, You have raised up faithful leaders for your church throughout history. May your Spirit continue to abide with St. Mark's staff and council; bless those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians including Katie Elkin; and stir up all your servants in this church and throughout the world that we may be empowered for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? In your infinite care O God, you share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship here; bless those who are worshipping from home today; remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, the pioneer of our salvation, Jesus Christ, was made perfect through sufferings. We thank you for the salvation we have in Jesus' blood, crucifixion and resurrection. Today we pray for all who need Christ's salvation, and for all who suffer in body, mind, soul, or spirit including Jim, Martha, Brenda, Herb, Janet, Dovie, Guil.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” vs. 1

#656

*SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Speak and visit with each other as we go forth and serve

SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!



We welcome you if you are single, married, divorced, gay, wealthy, poor, black, brown, yellow or white. We welcome crying newborns, squirming children and frazzled moms and dads. You are welcome if you sing like an opera star or can't carry a tune in a bucket, like some of us. You are welcome here if you use a wheelchair, walker, or scooter to assist your mobility. You are welcome here because the Spirit of the Lord called you and helped guide you here today, along with the rest of us. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Martin Luther, haven't been in church since little Joey's baptism, or if you're "just browsing." We welcome you if you are over 60, even if you haven't grown up yet, or if you are a teenager and growing up too fast. We welcome starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians and junk food junkies. You are welcome if you are in recovery or still struggling with your addiction. We welcome you if you have been having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion." We've been there too. If you are left-wing, right-wing or no wing at all, you are welcome here. If you are visiting Grandma and Grandpa and they made you come to church, welcome! Likewise, if you are in town to visit a child, grandchild or friend, you are welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church because we are a place of saints and sinners of all kinds who are here by the grace of God.

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