



*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!

***The Sacrament of Holy Communion*** is celebrated today at St. Mark's. Any baptized Christian is welcome to share in this meal. Children and adults who are not yet communing will receive a blessing. Martin Luther wrote: "It is the true body and blood of the Lord Christ in and under the bread and wine which we Christians are commanded by Christ's word to eat and drink." (*Luther's Large Catechism, Book of Concord, page 447. Fortress Press, 1959*)

***Nursery*** - St. Mark's nursery is open for infants through 4 year old children whose parents are in worship or Sunday School each Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. We have a wonderful and devoted staff members, Jenny Horton and Sara Barone, 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:**

Bobbie Meadows & Susan Haire

**LECTOR:**

Tonya Mays

**ACOLYTES:**

Max Grace & Karlee Koehler

DRAFT 1

SEPTEMBER 12  
10:00 a.m.

\*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: Johnny Davis*

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 - 10:00 AM
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**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*"St. Anthony Chorale"*

by Johannes Brahms

Guest Organist – Johnny Davis

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**\*THE ABSOLUTION**

**\*HYMN**

“God’s Work, Our Hands ”  
Sing to Tune EARTH AND ALL STARS, ELW 731

1. God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.

*Refrain*

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

2. God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal. *Refrain*
3. God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least. *Refrain*
4. God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. *Refrain*

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**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, **your Holy Spirit equips each of us to notice your work, to be about your work, and to glorify you for your work in all creation, in the church, and even in us. You have blessed us with a rich variety of gifts so that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in ways that are built on faith and love. Prosper Your Work, and Our Hands, as well as our hearts and heads and homes as we eagerly live the gospel and do your will on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING

James 2:17-26

A Reading From James (Bible page 981)

<sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. <sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

*Here ends the reading.*

### PSALM 90:1-2, 14-17

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

<sup>2</sup> **Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

<sup>14</sup> Lord, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup> **Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup> **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

### ANTHEM

*"We Are the Hands of Christ"* by John Parker and Joel Raney

Text: John Parker; Music: Joel Raney; © 2004 Hope Publishing Company

**\*THE GOSPEL**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter (Bible page 820)

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"<sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."<sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."<sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?<sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?<sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P The gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection.*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"To Be Your Presence"*

#546

**\*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**

*May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands. (Ps. 90:17)***

Generous God, you call each of us to lives of service. In my words and actions this day, move me to serve in Christ's name for the love of my neighbor, for the love of St. hytg. When I lack energy, inspire me. When I lack courage, strengthen me. When I lack compassion, be merciful to me. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Life-giving God, your Work has made yourself known through creation and Spirit, bread and wine, mothers and fathers, water and Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared through our hands and hearts. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Bring goodness, help, healing and hope to all who suffer illness including Martha, Liz, Charlie, Brenda, Herb, Janet, Dovie and Guil. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen police officers, fire fighters, medical workers, therapists and counselors to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. *May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands;*

***O prosper the work of our hands.***

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

### \*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SENDING

#### \*HYMN

*"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"*

#538

#### \*SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

*"Psalm XIX"*

by Benedetto Marcello  
Guest Organist – Johnny Davis

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

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## SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!



Welcome  
To St. Mark's

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.



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

**God's work.**  
Our hands.