



*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*** - 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*). Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper or Eucharist (*Greek for Thanksgiving*) or Holy Communion. We do so with the pre-packaged communion elements. Thank you for your willingness to give up something (*coming to the communion table today*) in order to receive something greater, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of sins.

***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 member, Ashley Gray, 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:**

**8:30** ~ Tommy & Lorri Monterose

**11:00** ~ David & Jan Wagoner

#### **LECTOR:**

**8:30** ~ Lorri Monterose

**11:00** ~ Catherine Tyree

#### **ACOLYTES:**

**8:30** ~ Madison Joy

**11:00** ~ Keegan Tidwell

**\*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 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 - 8:30, 10 & 11 AM
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### GATHERING

#### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** *"I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me"* Spiritual Arr. by Kevin McChesney  
Handbell Quartet: Mindy Arndt, Allison Kraft, Robbie Pearson, Caroline Tyree  
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**\*HYMN** *"The Trumpet Sounds, the Angels Sing"* #531

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.**

#### \*ABSOLUTION

**\*KYRIE** - *Setting 3 Kyrie page 138*

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Generous God, **your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to hear Your Word, do Your Word, and to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING

James 5: 13-20

A Reading from James (Bible page 982)

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

19:7-14

*Read responsively by Lector and Congregation.*

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your  
sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

page 142

\*THE GOSPEL

**Mark 9:38-50**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 9th Chapter (Bible page 821)

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”<sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.”<sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us.<sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.”<sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.<sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.<sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,<sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire.”<sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P The gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

*Silence for reflection.*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

#742

\*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

*All sing...*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Listening Lord, we pray for the church around the world, for the ELCA and for St. Mark's and all ministries of the gospel. Bless our journey of faith and sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship.

We also pray for your incredible creation Lord – from the stars of night to the sands of the seashore, from the tallest mountains to the depths of the oceans. May we be good stewards of what you have provided as we take care of trees, seas, animals, farms, and tend to those who have experienced floods and fires, quakes and destruction.

*All sing...*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Listening Lord, we pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. We also pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Today we include in our prayers: Jim, Martha, Liz, Charlie, Brenda, Herb, Janet Dovie and Guil.

*All sing...*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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## **ANTHEM (11:00)**

*"Bread of the World"*

by Mark Pope

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; Music © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## **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.**

**\*BLESSING**

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Amen**

**\*HYMN**

*"Praise the Lord! O Heavens"*

#823

**\*SENDING**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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

## **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.