

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

**Please silence all electronic devices.**

**WELCOME!** Please sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

**PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

## **GATHERING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*~Ed. Broughton*

**HYMN #834** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*Organ Only — No Singing*

*Stand* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Faithful God, have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God's work in the world.

**C Amen.**

### **Greeting**

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

## C And also with you

Spoken **Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.**

**Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;**

**we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.**

**Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**—Let us pray. . .

A O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## WORD

Sit **First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for

good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13**

**READ IN UNISON**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;  
who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
O Lord, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.  
Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;  
you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.  
You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

**As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

**SECOND READING — Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will

all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,  
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

Stand **Spoken**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the 18th Chapter

**C Glory to you O Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be

made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The Gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Sit **HYMN #609** *Chief of Sinners Though I Be*  
Organ Only

Stand **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.

### The Prayers

A Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer,**

A Jesus Christ our Lord

**C Amen**

### PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share. We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contract” sharing of the Peace until further notice.**

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**C You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.**

**Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,**

**nourish us with this rich food and drink,**

**and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you,

**C 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.**

### PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

P Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

#### **Spoken Lamb Of God**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Sit **Communion Distribution**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.**

A We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who  
hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus  
Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

P Mothering God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C Amen.**

Sit **HYMN #609** *I Come With Joy*  
Organ Only

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C We will. Thanks be to God.**

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

## **POSTLUDE** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

~F. Ritter

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**SIMPLY GIVING** – A Simple Choice: A Generous Response & Save Paper. Simply Giving is the program St. Mark's uses to enable electronic transfer for church donations. Most people use similar methods to make recurring payments for utilities, mortgages, etc. Why not save paper and make it easier for yourself, and the Counters here at St Mark's. Sign up and support our programs with regular donations that are safe, reliable, and conserve paper resources.

If you are already enrolled consider increasing the amount at this time. Forms are available in the narthex and on bulletin boards, or ask at the office.

**ONLINE GIVING** - is also available on our website, [stmarksharrisburg.org](http://stmarksharrisburg.org). Click the GIVE tab and follow the instructions. **ON LINE GIVING IS SEPARATE FROM SIMPLY GIVING.** If you use both you will be giving twice. Changes to **SIMPLY GIVING** must, for the time being, be made by paper form only. Thanks for your generous stewardship.

**ATTENTION:** So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if you have changes to your name, address phone number and your email address changed, you can call or send your updated information to church office.

Operating Receipts thru July 31: \$156,008

Payments made thru July 31: \$156,754

Attendance: 09/06/2020 50

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

### **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTORS - Laurie Womer; Judy Horton

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sue Smithers

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

### **READINGS for September 20, 2020:**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

**ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS** - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

**Altar Flowers** are in Honor of Emma Klick's "5th" Birthday on September 12th, given by Mammy & Pappy Dinger. The Bulletins are in Celebration of our grandson Will on his 9th birthday, given by grandparents, Barb & Vaughn Heym.

### **Birthdays for September**

09/01 – Brighton Miller	09/15 – William Graves
09/02 – Jack Kane	09/15 – William Kroah, Sr
09/06 – Travis Sultzaberger	09/17 – Barbara Heym
09/06 – Julie Eyer	09/21 – Jax Phelan
09/07 – Ella Heckert	09/24 – Dennis Dinger
09/08 – Katlyn Betz	09/25 – Michael Betz
09/10 – Betsy Dressler	09/26 - Michael Hengst
09/11 – Luke Dullen	09/26 – Janet Smith
09/11 – Sara Shoaff	09/26 – Nick Bargmann
09/12 – Donna Gutshall	09/29 – Nathaniel Lawrence
09/12 – Emma Klick	09/29 – Cheryl Long
09/13 – Lainey Huertas (Banic)	09/30 – William Shook
09/14 – Carla Whitaker	
09/14 – Mary Elizabeth Howell	

# it's **BBQ** Time!



**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020**

**10:30 am – until Sold Out**

**\$9.00 per Chicken Dinner**

**\$12.00 per Ribs Dinner**

**All dinners include: Baked potato, Apple sauce, Roll & Water**

**Baked goods are gladly accepted.**

**DINNERS CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE**

**from any member of Fellowship Ministry or call  
Church Office, 717-652-6700**