

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

P THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE.

C LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD IN IT.

**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 observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude. **Ver ujier para boletín en español**

**Voir l'huissier pour le bulletin français**

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

### **CONSIDER THIS**

*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.*

*That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

### **GATHERING**

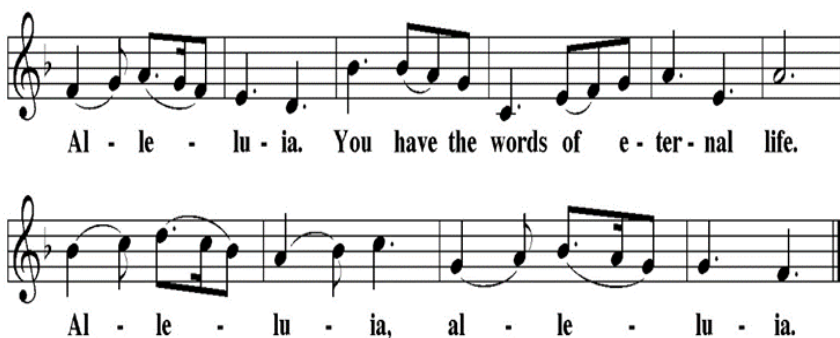
### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE—** *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High with Doxology*  
*Founds, Ken (arr. Tornquist)*



*Stand* **Gospel Acclamation**





## 8:15 Sermon Lesson—Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

### Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15th Chapter  
**C** Glory to you O Lord

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who

repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

Sit **8:15**— Sermon



Stand **Hymn#677** *This Little Light of Mine*

## **The Ten Commandments**

(According to Luther's Small Catechism)

P God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep God's commandments.

Therefore, we are to love and trust God and gladly act according to God's commands.

**C You shall have no other Gods**

**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the  
Lord your God**

**Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy**

**Honor your father and your mother**

**You shall not murder**

**You shall not commit adultery**

**You shall not steal**

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse... or anything that belongs to your neighbor**

P Having been reminded of God's perfect law, we now confess our sins, seek and receive forgiveness by God's grace.

## Kyrie

*Refrain*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Sit or kneel as able*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Merciful and loving God,

**C we are your stiff-necked people.**

**We trample on the needy.**

**We grumble about your grace to others.**

**We turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost  
and have been found.**

**Amen.**

**P** Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C Amen.**

## **Stand Salutation**

**P** The Lord be with you

**C And also with you**

## **Prayer of the Day**—Let us pray...

A O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

## **First Lesson: Exodus 32:7-14**

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them*

A reading from Exodus

.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from

the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **Second Lesson    1 Timothy 1:12-17**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

A reading from 1 Timothy

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

## 11:00—Stand Gospel Acclamation



## 11:00 Sermon Lesson Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You O Christ

Sit **CHILDREN'S SERMON/YOUTH MESSAGE**

**11:00 SERMON**

**Hymn #595** *Jesus Loves Me*

### **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

P God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of  
Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen

### MEAL

### 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.*

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

Sit **OFFERTORY** *Children of the Heavenly Father*

*Swedish Melody* Arr. Berry

Stand **OFFERTORY HYMN** **ELW 685** Vs1&4

*Take My Life that I May Be*



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**— Let us Pray

A Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Spoken **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **PREFACE**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

## LAMB OF GOD

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **Communion Distribution**

*We invite all Christians who believe that Jesus gives his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins to receive the sacrament with us, the communion assistant will distribute the wine from a pouring chalice into a cup you may pick up at the front of the aisle. If you are unable to take either the bread or wine, be assured that the sacrament is complete. Those not receiving communion are invited to come to the rail to receive a blessing. Parents of young children; please direct the pastor as to whether your child usually receives communion or not.*

### **Communion Hymns**

**#638** *Blessed Assurance*

**#856** *How Great Thou Art*

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

A O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C Amen**

## **Blessing**

P The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn #660** *Lift High the Cross*

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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

**POSTLUDE ~** *Holy God, Holy and Glorious*

*Briehl, Farlee (arr. Bankson)*

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## **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

**CO-MINISTERS OF MUSIC** - Jenny Sustak & Faith Smeck

**YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER** - Kellen Michalowski

**ALTAR CARE** - Laurie Womer; Barb Dudek

**USHERS** - Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Rick Frazier,

Chris Bair, Joe Boslet, Dave Featherman

**COMMUNION ASST** - Jessica Broome; Shelley Lindner

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT**—

**LECTOR** - Laurie Womer; Barb Dudek

**FLOWER DELIVERY** - Marian Person

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT** - Dave Stanton

**NURSERY SCHL DIR.** - Jessica Broome 717-827--8104

**SEXTON** - Don Young

## OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARK'S THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	09/14	<b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:45 am Rally Day <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gambler's Anonymous
MONDAY	09/15	6:00 pm Lion/Lioness Meeting Fellowship Hall
TUESDAY	09/16	6:30 pm Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY	09/17	10:00 am Bible Study
THURSDAY	09/18	1:00 pm Craft Artisans
FRIDAY	09/19	
SATURDAY	09/20	
SUNDAY	09/21	<b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:45 am Intergenerational Sunday School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gambler's Anonymous

**Altar Flowers** are in memory of my husband, Harold. Given by Mary Sultzaberger.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all my St. Mark's Church family, for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent health incident; Your prayers have helped tremendously.

Thank You!

Doug Womer