

CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for September 8, 2024



GLORIFY HIM ...

GROW IN HIM ...

GO WITH HIS GOSPEL

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELS†NorCal **Ministry** ... Other Area Locations

Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

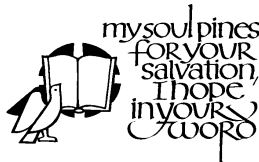
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

LARGE PRINT copies of the Service can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

*Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Blue (2021) /
'Christian Worship Supplement' (blue soft cover)*

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksch; Follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: Do you find it hard to keep going through life? Maybe not every day, but there are days this life just weighs you down? This feeling may be the result of something physical or emotional or spiritual or a combination of such. You are not alone. You do not have to face today and tomorrow alone. The Lord remains by your side. He can remove the affliction, or He may allow it to linger yet provide what we need to endure through it. This is another reason why God is worthy of our time and praise.

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: O Lord, keep our ears attentive to your Word through word and song,

C: and accept our words of thanks and praise.

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Christian Worship Red # 255

**Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!**

**Gracious God, I come before thee; Come thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou; Let it be thy temple now!**

**Here thy praise is gladly chanted; Here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.**

**Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep thy gift divine,
How-so-e'er temptations thicken; May thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear thee; Let thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near thee While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.**

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.

C: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

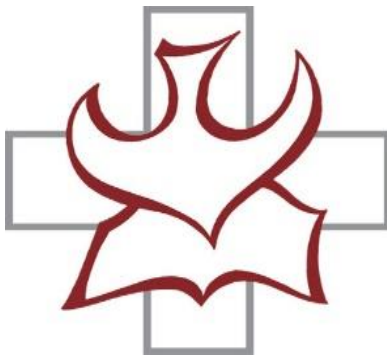
All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

(musical introduction) ... See page 5



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
 they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
 ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: Let us pray. Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness;

C: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:4-7a

They looked ahead and we look back to see the same thing: the healing God offers and gives through Jesus.

[S]ay to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute

tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Christian Worship Red # 353

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands With the Father's word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the one who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the one who makes us one.**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Acts 3:1-10

Peter was given power to heal as a way to testify about Jesus.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES ... Psalm 98 with Hymn 279, "O Word of God Incarnate"

M: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: for he has done marvelous things.

(sing, intro)

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

M: The LORD has made his salvation known

C: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

M: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(sing, no intro)

**The Church from you, dear Master, Received the gift divine,
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's journey through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to you.**

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

C: burst into jubilant song with music;

M: make music to the LORD with the harp,

C: with the harp and the sound of singing.

M: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

(sing, no intro)

**Oh, make your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Your true light, as of old.
Oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see you face to face.**

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:31-37

Jesus reveals His power as God, power over physical impairments and far more.

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's

tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Musical Introduction

My God Will Never Leave Me

Christian Worship Red # 418

**My God will never leave me, And I will not leave him;
A light my God will give me In pathways dark and grim.
He reaches out his hand, His mighty power sharing,
My burdens ever bearing Wherever I may stand.**

**When human thought and action Shall unavailing prove,
God grants me his protection And shows his pow’r and love.
He helps in ev’ry need, From sin and shame redeems me,
From chains and bonds reclaims me; From death I, too, am freed.**

**God shall be my reliance In sorrow’s darkest night;
Its dread I bid defiance When he is at my right.
I unto him commend My body, soul, and spirit—
They are his own by merit—All’s well, then, at the end.**

**Oh, praise him for he never Forgets our daily need;
Oh, blest the hour whenever To him our thoughts can speed,
For all the time we spend Without him is but wasted,
Till we his joy have tasted, The joy that has no end.**

**And when the world will perish With all its pride and pow’r,
All that the world may cherish Will vanish in that hour.
But though in death they make The deepest grave our cover,
When there our sleep is over, Our God will us awake.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Isaiah 35:4-7a

“Hold Out For Times Of Refreshing”

A CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us each day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us.
Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

And we also pray ...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Christian Worship Red # 441

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home,**

**Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Christians, While on Earth Abiding

Christian Worship Red # 408

**Christians, while on earth abiding, Let us never cease to pray,
Firmly in the Lord confiding As our parents in their day.
Be the children's voices raised To the God their parents praised.
May his blessing, failing never, Rest upon his people ever.**

**Bless us, Father, and protect us From all harm in all our ways;
Patiently, O Lord, direct us Safely through these fleeting days.
Let your face upon us shine; Fill us with your peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit! Praise him, all who life inherit!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal

Kevin Hildebrand

TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Lisa Thiesfeldt

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Altar Flowers

Flowers at the altar by Fran Schmidt and Family in loving memory of her husband and their father / grandfather, Dr. David Schmidt.

For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

1st: Why would this be refreshing news for OT Israel, what was going on in their life? How do we at times miss the 'good' God is providing in our life? Finish the thought: God keeps...

Read Isaiah 52-54.

2nd: The world would like what, yet what does it need? What is your role in helping the 'world' see what it needs and can have through Jesus while not dismissing any earthly hardship they are experiencing? Read James 5:13-20.

3rd: What is the common theme in all three Readings for today? What do we tend to take for granted even though we use 'it' daily? Discuss (think about) the various 'healings' Jesus brings about. Read Psalm 103.

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Jesus Cares Worship
	3:00 p.m.	Connect1025 at Top Golf
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Mornings with Mommy
	5:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service (Office Building Chapel)
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	GriefShare #1 (Luther Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 p.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study (Library Room)
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Starting Point Class #1 (in the church)
Next Sunday	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Betty Martin	<i>Sept 8</i>	
Avery Clark	<i>Sept 9</i>	
Andrea Loughlean	<i>Sept 10</i>	
Joshua Brown	<i>Sept 11</i>	
Philip Sartori		
Jenny Kolander	<i>Sept 13</i>	
Dan Moller	<i>Sept 14</i>	

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