

Everyone then who hears these words
of mine and does them will be like a wise
man who built his house on the rock.



MATTHEW 7:24

Sunday, July 12, 2020
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

**St. Mark Lutheran Church
1515 S. Harris Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

stmarkypsi.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Pr. Vicky Lovell of Zion–Ann Arbor who is preaching this week.

Coffee hour at 11:15.

PRELUDE: On What Has Now Been Sown

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CALL TO WORSHIP: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[Water is poured into the baptismal font.]

God calls us by name into the presence of holiness as God's holy people. We answer this call by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Come, let us worship God.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

How costly is our broken relationship with God! The price of sin is a spiritless life, which is no life at all.

[Dip hands in the water.]

Where are joy, peace, or lasting love to be found, except in the One who creates peace and joy, who sent Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, to save us from our sin? Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done to the community and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, to the full vision of the kingdom of God, and uphold us by your Spirit, She who loves us and encourages us towards liberation, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

[Lift water from the baptismal font/bowl.]

God, whose name is I AM, provides for our weakness. Jesus Christ, I AM in the body, gave himself for our salvation. All who are united to Christ in his death are united to Christ in his resurrection. The end is eternal life. I declare to you, in Jesus ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

GREETING

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.

OPENING SONG: Awesome God

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

To the leader. A Psalm of David. A Song.

¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,

² O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

⁴ Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.**

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;

**you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.**

⁶ By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

⁸ Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

⁹ You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 7:24-27

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to You O Lord.**

²⁴Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

“Have You Heard God Lately?”

Pastor Vicky Lovell

SERMON HYMN: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

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CREED: The Creed

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Reigning God, we pray for our nation’s leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, care for all who are in need. *(A time of silence as we lift up those on our prayer list.)*

- ✠ We lift up especially Miriam, Frances, Kathleen, Maurice, Steve, George, baby Declan, Dusty, and Karen.
- ✠ We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Harry, Terry, Charlene, Barbara, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Alfred, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Fran, Ben, and Rick.
- ✠ We pray for God’s comfort to surround Amy and Sarah, classmates of Danny Karns and Brennan Kelly, as they grieve for their father and cope with the upheaval in their lives at the loss of their only remaining parent.

For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries *(especially our relationship with the Sugarbrook Neighborhood)* and deepen relationships with the wider community. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died *(especially Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, whom we commemorate today)*. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Lord Jesus taught us, let us pray to God in Heaven with the words most authentic to your relationship with the One who created you...

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Our Father/Mother/Parent 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.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us
from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING: The Trees of the Field

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities
and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

Thank you for continuing to give to the work God is doing through St. Mark Lutheran Church. You can give by mailing your gift directly to the church. You can also give your gift by going online to www.stmarkypsi.com.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Almighty

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: On What Has Now Been Sown

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ENCIRCLED WITH PRAYER

- † Recognizing the power of prayer, please join us in praying at home throughout this week for those whose needs are known to us and those whose cares we do not know.
- † We lift up especially Miriam, Frances, Kathleen, Maurice, Steve, George, baby Declan, Dusty, and Karen.
- † We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Harry, Terry, Charlene, Barbara, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Alfred, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Fran, Ben, and Rick.
- † We pray for God's comfort to surround Amy and Sarah, classmates of Danny Karns and Brennan Kelly, as they grieve for their father and cope with the upheaval in their lives at the loss of their only remaining parent.

Please contact Vicar Anna annataylor@mccants@gmail.com if you need prayer for yourself or those dear to you.

REMEMBER TO JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR FROM 11:15-11:45AM