



***Sunday, August 23, 2020***  
**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1515 S. Harris Rd.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
[stmarkypsi.com](http://stmarkypsi.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee hour** at 11:15AM.

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

We come into the Presence of Love together.

**We come to be transformed.**

Through the grace of God our hearts expand.

**Our minds are renewed.**

Our relationships are deepened.

**Our practices of justice are refined.**

With humility and conviction, we come to discern the will of God.

**Let the way of Christ be revealed.**

Let wisdom be our guide.

## 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: All of My Life

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

### PSALM: Psalm 138

*O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)*

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

### SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith

that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness..

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

### GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

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

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

### SERMON

Pastor Vicky Lovell

### SERMON HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians

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### CREED: The Creed

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### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

#### *A brief silence.*

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in

trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care. (*A time of silence as we lift up those on our prayer list.*)

- ✠ We lift up especially Frances Brandon, Dusty, Karen Severson, John Poet, and Barb Kendall.
- ✠ We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Terry, Charlene, Barbara, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Fran, Ben, and Rick.
- ✠ We ask God to comfort the Karns family and other family and friends of Tina's father Alfred Bennett as they mourn his passing and prepare a small celebration of his life.
- ✠ May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call us into this community of St Mark, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Hallowed Be Thy Name

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#### INVITATION TO OFFERING<sup>1</sup>

The body of Christ is made of many members. We each come with our own offerings. We bring our stories, our talents, our resources, and all that makes us who we are to God, in service to love and liberation. In the knowledge and assurance that we each play a vital part in the movement of God, let us bring together what we have.

OFFERING SONG: Seek Ye First

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#### OFFERING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

Spirit of Life, you accept us just as we are even as you lure us more deeply into love. You bring us into the company of others to expand our understanding. You send us prophets. You call us to courage. You accompany us through wisdom ancient and new. For all the ways your grace enables us to grow, we bring our offerings with gratitude and renew our commitment to pursuing what is good, and true, and just. **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](http://www.stmarkypsi.com). Your gifts continue to sustain and nourish our ministries here at St. Mark, so thank you.*

## BENEDICTION<sup>1</sup>

Faithful ones,  
the aches of the world,  
the struggle of our neighbors,  
the grief that fills our hearts,  
they call us to listen for God's guiding wisdom.

We listen that we might be transformed,  
and bring about transformation.

For the sake of the flourishing of collective life,  
the Spirit sends us to learn from one another,  
to grow in the ways of liberation,  
and to love as the body of Christ.

May God the Creator  
Jesus the Redeemer  
and the Spirit the Sustainer  
Bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Walking into the Light

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## DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Blessed Assurance

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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 Frances Brandon, Kathleen Peacock, Dusty, Karen Severson, John Poet, and Barb Kendall.
- ✠ We continue to pray for Chloe, Richard, Terry, Charlene, Barbara, Melissa, Mildred, Sandy, Pam, Kevin, Chuck, Ted, Dr. Jim, Denny, Sharon, Mary, Fran, Ben, and Rick.
- ✠ We ask God to comfort the Karns family and other family and friends of Tina's father Alfred Bennett as they mourn his passing and prepare a small celebration of his life.
- ✠ May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.

Please contact Vicar Anna [annataylor@mccants@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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