



***Sunday, August 30, 2020***

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**St. Mark Lutheran Church**

**1515 S. Harris Rd.**

**Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

**[stmarkypsi.com](http://stmarkypsi.com)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Washtenaw ELCA has just announced **Sunday Adult Faith Formation and Wednesday Social Justice classes** that begin on Zoom in September: Sundays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm. The first Sunday class will be September 13; the first Wednesday class is September 16. Other offerings – Bible studies, prayer meditations, and more – are also being planned. Watch for additional details, coming soon.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Beloveds! People of God! Followers of the way of Christ!  
**Let us tell the truths we need to hear.**

Let us listen and remember the wisdom that sustains us.  
**Our hope does not come from thrones of power.**

Neither wealth nor control will secure our hearts' desires.  
**What satisfies is already among us.**

Through acts of love and solidarity, the richest gifts of life are revealed.  
When God is enfleshed among us, there is no greater joy, no deeper delight.  
**Thanks be God, the source of all that nourishes.**

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: We Will Walk On

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.  
In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

**PSALM:** Psalm 26:1-8

*Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**<sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

**SERMON**

Get Behind Me, Satan

Pastor Vicky Lovell

**SERMON HYMN: Take Up Your Cross**

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## APOSTLES' CREED

*Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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

*\* Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## 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.*

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick.

*(A time of silence as we lift up those on our prayer list.)*

† We lift up especially Frances Brandon, Dusty, Karen Severson, John Poet, Barb Kendall, Beth Hall, and Sissy Howard.

- ✠ 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.
- ✠ May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.
- ✠ We ask God to protect and comfort the family and friends of Robin Enck as they grieve and they travel to New York for his funeral, especially his wife, Cate Collins Enck, former St. Mark member.

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

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light, especially Alfred Bennett. In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. 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>

To live faithfully is not a solo endeavor. We need each other - to learn and grow, to give and receive support, to laugh and to weep along the way. With thanks for the gifts of the Spirit that enable us to recognize and resist evil together, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERING SONG: The Battle Belongs to the Lord

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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](http://www.stmarkypsi.com). Your gifts continue to sustain and nourish our ministries here at St. Mark, so thank you.*

## BENEDICTION AND BLESSING<sup>1</sup>

When the way becomes difficult, let us still choose love.  
When evil comes to break us down and break us apart, let us still choose each other.  
When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts, let us still choose what is good and just.  
For we know that the love of God will not be overcome.  
With the assurance that this abiding love is alive in us,  
today and always,  
let us go with peace and courage.  
In the name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Stronghold

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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, Dusty, Karen Severson, John Poet, Barb Kendall, Beth Hall, and Sissy Howard.
- ✠ 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.
- ✠ May God be with the family and friends of Kathleen Peacock, especially her cousin Kim Bailey, and comfort them in their grief.
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*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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