St. Mark’s & Bethlehem Sunday Service Liturgy
13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023

Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter’s bold confession of faith. God’s word of reconciliation and God’s mercy are keys to the church’s mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

WELCOME TO ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

God is love. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church welcomes all who gather here. St. Mark’s welcomes you regardless of race or culture, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or relationship status. We welcome all regardless of addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, financial means, or anything that too often divides us. Our community is founded in Christ’s love for all.

AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE SERVANT,
WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO:

- Spread the Word of God through worship, prayer, discipleship and education
- Spread God’s love by example through service, advocacy and community
- Be spirit-led stewards of our time, talents and money

To our friends joining us on Zoom, please be aware that any time you are unmuted, you are broadcasting over the sound system in the St. Mark’s sanctuary. We look forward to hearing your voices as you join in the prayers of the people.
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Water is poured into the font.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Amen.
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.

Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeple are
2 Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation;
4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is
5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are

falling; crumbled have spires in every land, bells still are
dwelling—high in the heavens his temple stands, all earthly
tation; he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us
blessing; hither we come to praise his name, faith in our
ringing, many may come to hear your Word, who here this

chiming and calling—calling the young and old to rest, calling the

templ es ex ce ling. Yet God who dwells in heav’n above deigns to a
life and salvation. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Savior confessing. Jesus to us his Spirit sent, making with
promise is bringing: “I know my own, my own know me; you, not the

souls of those distressed, longing for life ever lasting,
bide with us in love, making our bodies his temple.
midst will show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.
us his covenant, granting his children the kingdom,
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen.”
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: Exodus 1:8—2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill
him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” 20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” 8 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 124
1 If the LORD had not been on our side, let Israel now say; 2 if the LORD had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us, then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; 3 then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us; 4 then would the raging waters have gone right over us. 5 Blessed be the LORD who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. 6 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. 7 Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8
1 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. 2 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. 3 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. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

The good news of Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the 16th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17And 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. 18And 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. 19I 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.” 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLE’S CREED)
Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we are baptized, the faith for which we pray.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.
God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation’s rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.
God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ’s resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed (especially). Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.
The people greet one another, saying “Peace be with you.” You may be seated after greeting those around you.

OFFERING:
Offering plates are at the sanctuary entrances. Thank you for all contributions towards the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The pastor greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  

_Those who are worshipping with us on Zoom are asked to hold up their bread and cup and say the following two paragraphs with the pastor._

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Remembering Jesus’ love for us, on the way, at the table, and to the end, we are bold to pray as he taught us:
Please join in praying in the language and version closest to your heart.

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.
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.

Padre nuestro que estás en cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los
que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder y tuya es la
gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

主禱文
我們在天上的父,
願人都尊袞的名為聖,
願袞的國降臨,
願袞的旨意行在地上,如同行在天上。
我們日用的飲食, 今日賜給我們,
免我們的債, 如同我們免了人的債,
不叫我們遇見試探,
救我們脫離兇惡,
因為國度、權柄、榮耀,
全是袞的, 直到永遠。阿們！

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
All people are called to Christ’s table.
Come, eat what is good.

Please be seated.

SHARING THE MEAL
As Christ’s body and blood poured out for the healing of the world, everyone is invited to communion.

For those worshipping in the sanctuary: the pastor will hand you the bread, which you may dip in the wine or the juice.
For those worshipping with us via Zoom: After we sing the Lamb of God, those of you who are with others may commune one another, saying “The body of Christ, given for you” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

For those of you who are by yourselves, the pastor will look up at the camera and speak the promises to you as you commune.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.
SENDING

BLESSING
The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
+bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for service, to witness in God’s name.
3 Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.

our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
Now let us be a vessel for God’s redeeming Word.

A single great mission compels us from above
to touch the lives of others with God’s surprising grace,
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call.

to plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love.
so ev’ry folk and nation may feel God’s warm embrace.
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

Worship leadership today:
Producer: Ted Cheskin
Light the candles: OPEN
E-Usher: Brian Fajardo
First reading: Diane Hess
Coffee hospitality: Ted Cheskin
Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Larsen
Psalm: Jon Cheskin
Second reading: Deb Schulz
Prayers of the people: Max Cheskin
Communion assistant: OPEN
Communion setup & cleanup: Melissa Flowerdew