

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MD

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
601 Washington Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor
Telephone: 301-733-7550 Website: stmarkslc.org

+ *Congregation please stand if able*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE - Adagio

Rick Mogenson, clarinet

Richard Wagner

+ **CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN - "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"**

ELW 864

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praises everlasting ring! | 3 Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the great Eternal One! |
| 2 God be praised for grace and favor
to our forebears in distress.
God be praised, the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious is God's faithfulness! | 4 Angels sing in adoration,
in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace! |

+ **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.**

+ **KYRIE**



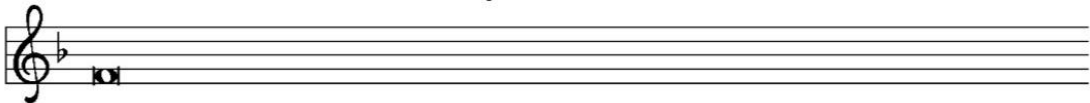
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



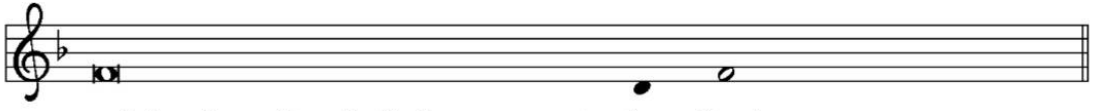
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



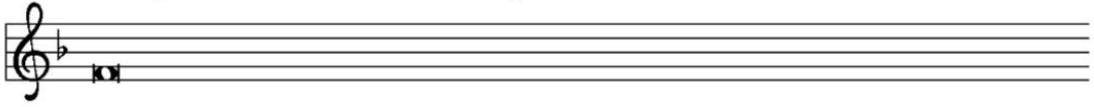
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



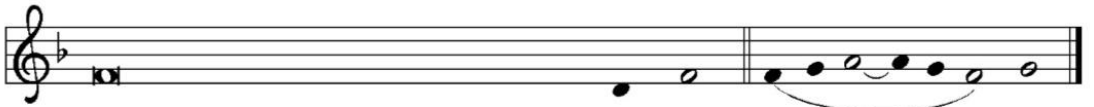
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

+ **GLORIA**

Assisting minister

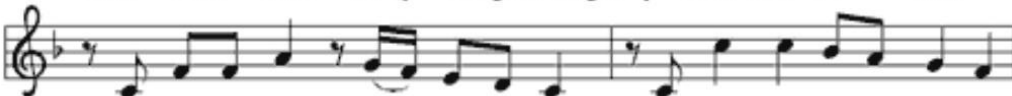


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



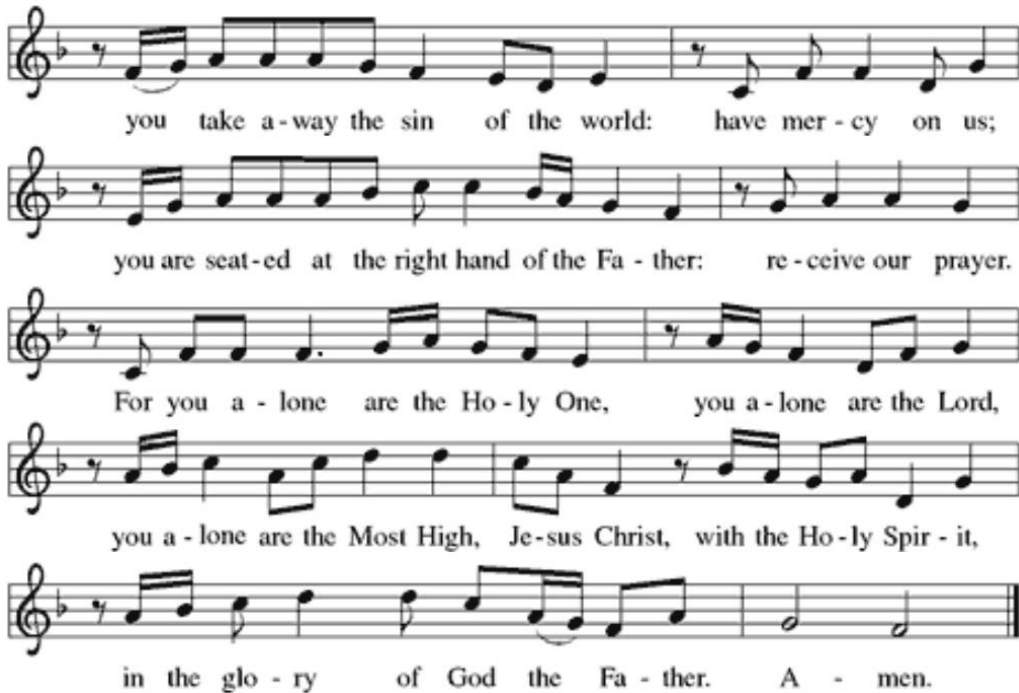
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING - Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits —

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

SECOND READING - Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

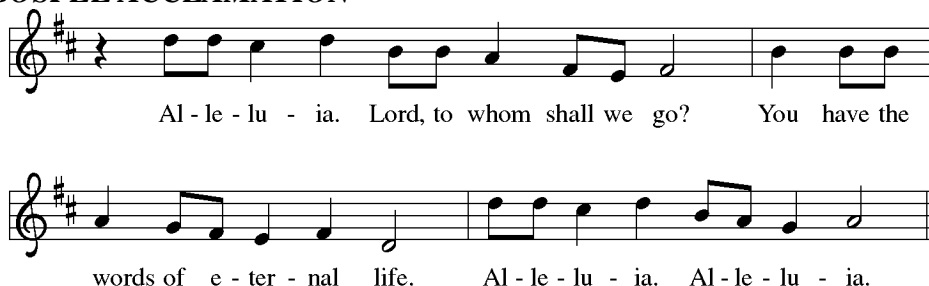
¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ *GOSPEL - Matthew 18:21-35*

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

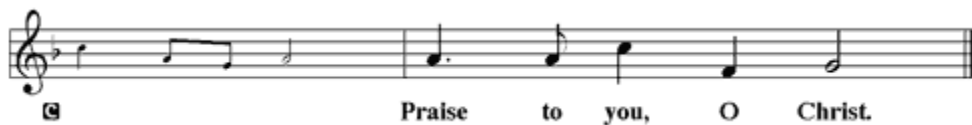
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 18th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” The gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Brian

SERMON

Pastor Brian

+ HYMN OF THE DAY - "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

ELW 599

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.</p> | <p>3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.</p> |
| <p>2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.</p> | <p>4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.</p> |

+ *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 into hell. 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 CHURCH*

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

+ *SHARING OF THE PEACE*

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING - Holy, Holy, Holy
Rick Mogenson, clarinet

Douglas Court

+ *OFFERTORY - "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"*

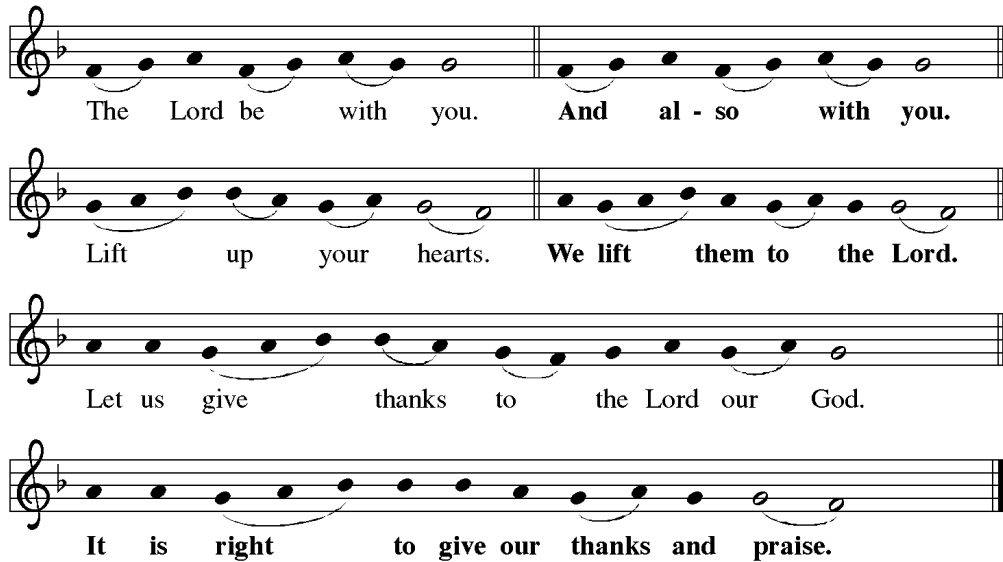
ELW 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

+*OFFERING PRAYER*

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

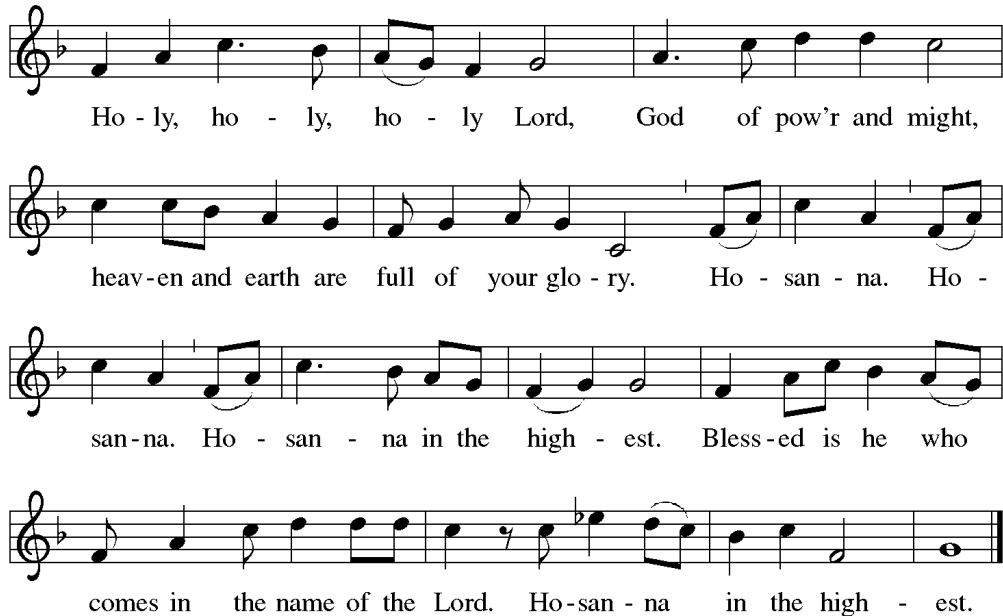


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

+ **SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Thanks be to God.

+ LAMB OF GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MEDITATION - I Come, O Savior, to Your Table Ralph C. Schultz

+ **TABLE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

+ **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.**

+ **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ **CLOSING HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

ELW 836

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before
thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day. | center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee. |
| 2 All thy works with joy surround
thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, | 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine! |

+ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - Fanfare on Praise to the Lord

Joyce Jones