

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Praise Service



September 24, 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

301-733-7550 www.stmarkslc.org

+ Stand if you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord!

Call upon the name of the Lord!

God's love and mercy are given daily for each of us.

God's forgiveness and tenderness are poured out for us.

Praise be to God who deals so kindly with us.

Lord, help us offer the same compassion to others.

AMEN



+ OPENING PRAISE SONG - Christ Be Magnified

Were creation suddenly articulate
With a thousand tongues to lift one cry
Then from north to south and east to
west

We'd hear Christ be magnified

Were the whole earth echoing His
eminence

His name would burst from sea and sky
From rivers to the mountain tops
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Chorus

O Christ be magnified

Let His praise arise

Christ be magnified in me

O Christ be magnified

From the altar of my life

Christ be magnified in me

When ev'ry creature finds its inmost
melody

And ev'ry human heart its native cry

O then in one enraptured hymn of
praise

We'll sing Christ be magnified

Chorus

Bridge (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)

I won't bow to idols

I'll stand strong and worship You

And if it puts me in the fire

I'll rejoice 'cause You're there too

I won't be formed by feelings

I hold fast to what is true

If the cross brings transformation

Then I'll be crucified with You

'Cause death is just the doorway

Into resurrection life

If I join You in Your suff'rings

Then I'll join You when You rise

And when You return in glory

With all the angels and the saints

My heart will still be singing

My song will be the same

Chorus (2 times)

+ PRAYER

Lord, whether we have come to you from long ago, or have just come to you now, you reach out with love and blessing for each one of us. Help us remember your mercy and your love and offer greetings and blessings to each other in your name. **Amen.**



READING - Jonah 3: 10 - 4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

PRAISE SONG - Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me
See on the portals He's waiting and
 watching
Watching for you and for me

Chorus

**Come home come home
Ye who are weary come home
Earnestly tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling O sinner come home**

Why should we tarry when Jesus is
 pleading
Pleading for you and for me
Why should we linger and heed not His
mercies
Mercies for you and for me

Chorus

O for the wonderful love He has
 promised
Promised for you and for me
Tho we have sinned He has mercy and
 pardon
Pardon for you and for me

Chorus

PSALM 145: 1-8

¹I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
²Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
⁴One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PRAISE SONG – Great Is the Lord

Great is the Lord
He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love

Chorus 1

Great is the Lord
And worthy of glory
Great is the Lord
And worthy of praise
Great is the Lord
Now lift up your voice
Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord

Chorus 2

Great are You Lord
And worthy of glory
Great are You Lord
And worthy of praise
Great are You Lord
I lift up my voice
I lift up my voice
Great are You Lord

Ending

Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord

READING - Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

OFFERING

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Loving and righteous God, you are far more generous to us and to all who work in your kingdom than we desire or deserve. Make us generous to others as you have been to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ GOSPEL READING - Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Brian

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian

+ PRAISE HYMN - God, We Gather As Your People

ACS 1038

- 1 God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here,
we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

Refrain

- Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.
- 2 Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest.
May they, in your love, find rest. *Refrain*
 - 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame,
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished that your love is for the few;
may their faith in you renew. *Refrain*
 - 4 God, we're working for the future when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,
as against all hate we stand. *Refrain*

+ CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

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

+ 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.**

+CLOSING PRAISE SONG - All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

ELW 835

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!</p> <p>2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!</p> | <p>3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!</p> <p>6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!</p> |
|--|---|

+ BLESSING

Go out from here as workers in God's kingdom, where the last are first and the first are last, where needs are met in miraculous ways, and there is grace enough for all. And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit surround you and sustain you in the coming days. May Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace, serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**



God, We Gather as Your People, Text: David Lohman, b. 1961, Text © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress; *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*, St. Francis of Assisi, text, ©1997 Augsburg Fortress.; Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-740359. Permission to reprint / podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from One License. All Rights reserved.

Christ Be Magnified, Cody Carnes | Cory Asbury | Ethan Hulse, © 2019 Cory Asbury Publishing; Capitol CMG Paragon; Writer's Roof Publishing; Be Essential Songs; EGH Music Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing; *Softly And Tenderly*, William Lamartine Thompson, Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain; *Great Is The Lord*, Deborah D. Smith | Michael W. Smith, © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company.; Reprinted with permission under Christian Copyright Licensing International, License #2016041. Permission to podcast / stream music in this service obtained from Christian Copyright Solutions 12136. All Rights reserved.

All liturgical songs and text copyright Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress License # SAS000843. All Rights Reserved.