



October 8, 2017  
18th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Mark's is a member of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Pastor Aaron Nitz  
Principal Nathan Bitter  
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## **Welcome to God's House of Worship!**

We consider it a privilege to worship our living Lord with you this morning! If you have any questions regarding our congregation, please talk with the pastor. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

- The order of worship is found in this folder.
- Restrooms are located in the foyer.
- Our fellowship hall is equipped with a speaker and child-friendly toys.
- Our service lasts about 65 minutes.

## **Words of the Reformation: GRACIOUS**

"I've got a deal for you!" How many times have you heard those words or words similar to those? Everybody likes good deals. Everybody likes to get something for less than what they normally would pay. We search flyers or ads for deals, we listen to people who tell us good deals, we watch advertisements that tell us of deals we can't pass up. Unfortunately there are many "deals" that really aren't good deals. But today God tells us of not just a deal of a lifetime, but a deal of an *eternal* lifetime! This is the real deal. This deal consists of God's mercy (he doesn't give us what we deserve) and God's grace (he gives us what we don't deserve). In Jesus God has given you the best deal ever!

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Gracious Lord, help me in my life to be guided by Your free gift of life. Move me not to judge others but to see how merciful and gracious You are to me! Focus me on Your Word and Your love in worship this morning. Amen.

*Preservice music will be used to help in quiet preparation for worship.*

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## **Service of the Word**

*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

*If you would like to follow along with the music for this liturgy,  
it begins on page 38 in the front of the hymnal.*

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## **We Enter God's Presence**

**OPENING HYMN**

(8:00 a.m.) **By Grace I'm Saved**  
*Christian Worship 384*

(10:30 a.m.) **My Chains Are Gone** by Chris Tomlin  
*Sung by the school children*

*Please stand*

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our Heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### **OH, TASTE AND SEE**

*(music can be found in the front of the hymnal on page 39)*

**C: (sung) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (sung) Amen.**

*Be seated*

# We Listen to God's Word

## FIRST LESSON

**Jonah 4:1-11** (NIV2011)

*Jonah was concerned about a vine; God was concerned about eternal souls – God is gracious!*

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup>Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup>Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

## PSALM OF THE DAY

**Psalm 27**

*Page 75 in the front of the hymnal*

## SECOND LESSON

**Ephesians 2:4-10** (NIV2011)

*We are saved by grace through faith!*

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**II Corinthians 12:9a** (NIV84)

**M:** Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia.

**C:** *(sung)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 20:1-16** (NIV2011)

*God isn't fair, He's gracious. He doesn't give us what we deserve, he gives us what we don't deserve.*

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, “You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” <sup>5</sup>So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About five in the afternoon he went out and found still oth-

ers standing around. He asked them, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?”

<sup>7</sup> “Because no one has hired us,” they answered.

“He said to them, “You also go and work in my vineyard.”

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.”

<sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

<sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

<sup>12</sup> “These who were hired last worked only one hour,” they said, “and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.”

<sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, “I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?”

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Salvation unto Us Has Come**

*Christian Worship 390*

**SERMON**

Text: Jonah 4:1-11

Theme: God’s Abounding Grace

*Please stand*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **We Respond to God's Word with Thanks**

### **OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS**

*The members of St. Mark's have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Please take a moment to sign our friendship register.*



*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

### **HYMN**

**What Grace Is This!**  
*Christian Worship Supplement 715*  
*(printed on page 12)*

*Please stand*

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (sung) Amen.**

## BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

(8:00 a.m.) **My Chains Are Gone** by Chris Tomlin

*Sung by the school children*

(10:30 a.m.) **Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

*Christian Worship 389*

*Following the final hymn the bell will toll concluding our worship hour.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Christian Worship: Service of the Word. Text and tune: © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720004.

“What Grace Is This!” Text: Laurie Gauger. Tune: Grace Hennig. © 2005 Northwestern Publishing house. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-720004.

*This hymn helps us recognize the nature of divine grace, which is entirely independent of anything we are or can offer to God. God's grace willingly acts on behalf of rebellious sinners, as especially displayed in the suffering and death of our Savior.*

## WELCOME!

If this is your first time worshipping with St. Mark's, we pray it will be the first of many times! If you have questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Nitz or one of the members. Materials are available in the entry; take as much as you'd like.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Janet Bitzer (with health concerns)  
Sally Carroll (with health concerns)  
Kevin Peterson (with health concerns—cancer)  
Milo Holderbecker (with health concerns)

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Early: 94    Late: 58    Total: 152

## YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE FOR JESUS

*"Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)*

Contributions last week \$5,072  
Contributions needed each week \$5,122  
Contributions year to date \$199,680  
Budget year to date \$199,758  
Amount borrowed from savings to meet expenses \$0

## SERVING THE LORD AND US

Organists: Marjorie Gildersleeve, Erin Riess  
Greeters: Loren & Belinda B., Tom & Sally C.  
Ushers: D. Kranich, L. Baumann, D. Bentler, I. Bitter, J. Stewart,  
M. Webb, D. Merseth  
Church cleaning for 10/14: Wyman (Group Leader), E. Holderbecker, Merseth

# Announcements

## OPEN FORUM & VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, October 15 there will be a congregational open forum between the services. The voters meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

We will have Wednesday Night Fellowship this week. The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. hosted by Moms & Tots and Evangelism. Singing and Bible study for all ages follows at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

## INTERACTIVE FAITH

An Interactive Faith online Bible study began last Wednesday, and runs every Wednesday through Nov. 8. The study will stream live twice each Wednesday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (central). The online Bible studies are a great opportunity to get together as a group or to participate individually in a synod-wide Bible study. The study is titled "Luther's Lasting Impact," and will be led by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor Joel Otto. To join the study, visit:

[wels.net/interactivefaith](http://wels.net/interactivefaith)

## THROWBACK SUNDAY

On October 22 we will have a "Throwback" Sunday and worship as Lutherans did many years ago using an order of worship from an old hymnal. There will be different wording (old English style). As we worship, picture faithful Christians from years back as they worshipped our same Lord and Savior.

## LUTHER MOVIE

The showing of the new Martin Luther movie at the Bemidji theater has been re-scheduled (again!) to **Monday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.** Mark your calendars! (We've experienced a number of delays in working with the company who arranges the showing— we apologize for the confusion on the dates!)

### SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The school is always looking to use volunteers. Two immediate needs that we are trying to fill with volunteers are:

**Supervising playtime of kindergartners** - This would be from 10:30-11:30, basically doing one planned activity with them and then observing their play time (reminding them to be quiet and to give them an adult to interact with).

**Supervising lunch and noon recess** - If you can do it once a week, once a month, or just once a year, the teachers greatly appreciate it.

### BOXTOPS

Boxtops will be submitted at the end of the month. Please bring your Boxtops in by October 15 and drop them off in the labeled drawers in the cabinet in the fellowship hall. We also collect Our Family UPCs, Tyson labels, and empty printer ink cartridges. This is a great way to support our Christian day school!



### TYSON LABELS

St. Mark's Lutheran School is now collecting Tyson Project A+ labels! The program works in a similar way to the Boxtops and Our Family label programs. Just clip the labels on the Tyson products you purchase and bring them in to St. Mark's. There are drawers in the fellowship hall cabinet where the labels are collected. The Tyson labels are worth 24 cents each, with the money going to the School Special Project Fund. If you have any questions about the label programs, see Erin Riess.



### **WORDS OF THE REFORMATION**

October 8 - Gracious  
October 15 - Repentance  
October 22 - Fruits of Faith  
October 29 - Rejoice

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Oct 8 (Sun)...</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b> (Pentecost 18)
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class & Sunday School
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Oct 9 (Mon)...	7:00 p.m.	Resilient Ministry
Oct 10 (Tues)...	7:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study @ Country Kitchen
	10:00 a.m.	Home School Group
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
Oct 11 (Wed)...		<i>School Picture Day</i>
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation class
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship meal
	6:30 p.m.	Bible study for all ages
Oct 12 (Thurs)...	9:00 a.m.	Moms & Tots
Oct 14 (Sat)...	9:00 a.m.	Joyful Hands for Jesus
<b>Oct 15 (Sun)...</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship with Communion</b> (Pentecost 19)
	9:15 a.m.	Open Forum/Bible Class & Sunday School
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship with Communion</b>

\*If you would like to have St. Mark's online calendar synced with your Google calendar, you can choose "Add a friend's calendar" and put in: [stmarkbemidji@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkbemidji@gmail.com).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Announcements (bulletin or newsletter)		<a href="mailto:announce@stmarksbemidji.org">announce@stmarksbemidji.org</a>

## St. Mark's Mission Statement

We, the members of St. Mark's, are a Christ-centered church family that will **glorify** God, **grow** in His Word, and **go** with it to all.  
(1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 28:18-20)