



Welcome Home

St. Mark's Episcopal Church: A Community of Grace

We spread God's word, love like Jesus, enjoy worshipping together, and help our neighbors.

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023

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Prelude and Welcome (10AM): Please remain seated.

Prelude on "St. Columba"

Healey Willan

Entrance Hymn (10AM): Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 376

Joyful joyful, we adore thee

Opening Acclamation

Clergy: Blessed be our loving, liberating, life-giving God.

Community: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise (10AM)

Hymn S-280

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Announcements

Youth Group, Sept 17 – See Lisa or Peter Drew

Pet Blessing, in the church at both services, Oct 1

Trunk or Treat, Oct 21 – Register your trunk with Betty Farrell

Children Have a Place Here

Sunday school for children ages 3-12 in the chapel next to the altar. We hope you will feel comfortable placing your children in the care of our volunteer staff, all vaccinated and masked. You may also keep your children with you. We welcome their extra noise and movement as part of our joyful service!

Acknowledgements

Musician: Dr. Sonia Lee

The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God from Ted Smith in loving memory of Miriam on her birthday.

First Testament & Psalms: Track 1 (Genesis-Judges) Revised Common Lectionary.

Psalm translation: The Psalter for the Christian People.

Prayers of the People: Form 6, BCP, page 392.

Join Us for Holy Eucharist on Sundays - In Person at 8 & 10 AM, Online at 10 AM

Livestreamed via the church's website (www.stmarks-upland.org), Facebook page (Saint Mark's Episcopal Parish Upland, CA), and YouTube channel (Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Upland, CA). Prelude begins at 9:55AM.

Photo and Video Release: by attending an event/worship service at St. Mark's you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By taking part, you consent to such recording media and its release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for news, webcasts, social media, or other promotional outlets of St. Mark's.

An Open Invitation to Holy Baptism

By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized and wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact Rev. Keith to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

Loving Neighbors: Health & Community Protocols for Worship

Masks are strongly recommended. We adjust for healthy spaces between households.

Direct physical contact with young children is avoided; elbow bumps are fine, but no hugs or handshakes. Thank you for your continued support.

Centering Prayer and the Collect of the Day: Please be seated.

God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

*Take a deep breath. Notice God's presence and action around and within. When the time is right the Collect of the Day then "collects" our individual thoughts and prayers. The community responds: **Amen.***

The Lessons

Exodus 14: 19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

First Testament

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Reader: Let us say the psalm responsively by whole verse beginning with the south side.

- ¹ Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- ² Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel God's dominion.
- ³ The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- ⁴ The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- ⁵ What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- ⁶ You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- ⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- ⁸ Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

New Testament

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those 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. Who 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.

Some 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. Those 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.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why 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. For it is written,

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

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (10AM)

Hymn 677

God moves in a mysterious way

Gospel: Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter 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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So 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 our Savior. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: At the invitation of the preacher, please be seated.

The Nicene Creed: Please stand as you are able

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Clergy: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Reader: For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop; John, Frank, Katharine, and Ed our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The People add their own petitions. When the time is right...

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People add their own thanksgivings. When the time is right...

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People add their own petitions. When the time is right...

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

When the time is right, a concluding collect is added.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Please kneel as you are able. Silence is kept. When the time is right...

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clergy: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace: Please stand as you are able.

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Everyone's space and sensitivities are respected.

When someone offers their elbow, fist, or a peace sign, we respond appropriately.

Announcements: Please visit our website for the latest weekly newsletter.

The Good News (stmarks-upland.org)

Offertory: Your contributions make a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Make an online contribution to St. Mark's by visiting:

<https://tinyurl.com/5dsw728s>

For Zelle, use give@stmarks-upland.org.



Offertory Hymn (10AM)

Hymn 411

O bless the Lord, my soul

Doxology: Please stand as you are able

All things come of thee, O God; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Full/Large text of Eucharistic Prayer is available in the narthex. See also BCP p.361.

God dwells in you. **And also in you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give our thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you,...
...who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(8AM) **Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**

(10AM) Hymn S-129

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself;...

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God,...

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Bread is broken. A period of silence is kept.

Jesus, Lamb of God: **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins: **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world: **Give us your peace.**

Fraction Hymn sung at 10AM - Music found in the blue hymnal, Hymn S-156

The "S" (or service music) hymns are in the front portion of the hymnal

**Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.**

All are invited to Holy Communion.

We come to the altar and receive the bread. We ask the minister if we desire a gluten-free wafer. We receive the wine in a one-time use chalice. They are placed in the baskets by the pillars as we return to our seats. To receive a blessing, we cross our arms across our chest. It is the historic position of the church that communion is complete with just one of the elements. We let an usher know if we wish communion to be brought to us.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words.

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn (10AM)

Hymn 581

Where charity and love prevail

The Prayer of St. Francis: Please stand as you are able

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

*Blessing: After the blessing the community responds: **Amen.***

Mission Hymn (10 AM): Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Dismissal: After the dismissal the community responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Postlude (10 AM)

All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 715

Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Mark's Episcopal Parish: A Community of Grace

Vision: We will be a faith community that spreads God's word, loves like Jesus, enjoys worshiping together, and helps our neighbors.

Mission: To be a place where love and hope abound: we welcome everyone to our worship and communion, we help one another understand God and know Jesus, we nurture our community and the world, and we celebrate diversity and work for social justice.

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