

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
12th Weekend of Pentecost

Saturday, August 20 – 5:00 PM

Sunday, August 21 – 10:00 AM

prelude

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (Saturday)

arranged by Mark Hayes

Kristin Young, piano solo

"Serenade" (Sunday)

by Franz Joseph Haydn

Kurt Muth, violin

Kristin Young, piano

welcome & announcements

litany of praise *(stand)*

Psalm 139:1-10

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, you are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me,

And your right hand shall hold me fast.

Amen.

hymn of praise

"Gather Us In" (ELW 532)

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Verse 1

Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Verse 2

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Verse 3

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Verse 4

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

prayer of the day

Let us pray.

Discerner of hearts,

you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us.

Amen.

first reading *(sit)*

1 Samuel 6:1-13

The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. Then the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us what we should send with it to its place." They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty, but by all means return him a guilt offering. Then you will be healed and will be ransomed; will not his hand then turn from you?" And they said, "What is the guilt offering that we shall return to him?" They answered, "Five gold tumors and five gold mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines; for the same plague was upon all of you and upon your lords. So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps he will lighten his hand on you and your gods and your land. Why should you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? After he had made fools of them, did they not let the people go, and they departed? Now then, get ready a new cart and two milch cows that have never borne a yoke, and yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves home, away from them. Take the ark of the LORD and place it on the cart, and put in a box at its side the figures of gold, which you are returning to him as a guilt offering. Then send it off, and let it go its way. And watch; if it goes up on the way to its own land, to Beth-shemesh, then it is he who has done us this great harm; but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by chance."

The men did so; they took two milch cows and yoked them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. They put the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the box with the gold mice and the images of their tumors. The cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went; they turned neither to the right nor to the left, and the lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh.

Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. When they looked up and saw the ark, they went with rejoicing to meet it.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

backpack blessing

main reading

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

sermon

Pastor Paul Olson

hymn of the day *(stand)*

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (ELW 779)

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

Verse 1

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Verse 5

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

prayers of intercession *(stand)*

Brothers and sisters: reconciled to God by the mercy of Christ, we pray with confidence for the needs of the church and the world.

A brief silence.

The kindly faces who have loved and nurtured us; family, friends, neighbors, those on earth and those in heaven:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The faces of opponents who have mocked us or shunned us, abused us or betrayed us, exploited or ignored us:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The TV faces of hungry children overseas, or street kids in our cities, or children living in squalor:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The glossy magazine faces of sporting idols and film stars, royalty and fashion models, and the newspaper faces of those who have fallen into public shame:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The faces of those whom we have ignored or injured, or who have been the target of our superficial judgment or gossip:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The faces of those within this church who have been an inspiration to us, and those who more often get under our skin and annoy us:

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

The faces of those who need your healing love, remembering this day, **especially . . .**

Give them and us good sight and vision to see you, loving God,

And may we all see your glory.

Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance and see your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth, so we may see the world through your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us.

Amen.

sharing the peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation now takes time to exchange a greeting of peace.)

the offering of our gifts *(sit)*

"Open the Eyes of My Heart" (Saturday)

by Paul Baloche

Kristin Young, vocal solo

"Serenade" (Sunday)

by Franz Schubert

Kurt Muth, violin

Kristin Young, piano

offertory response *(stand)*

"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring" (ELW 691)

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune

Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress.

Verse 1

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.

We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.

Verse 2

The vines were planted, seeds were sown.
They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.

Verse 3

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.

offertory prayer

Let us pray,

Jesus, you are the bread of life and you give yourself abundantly to us. May we be nourished, refreshed, and strengthened to love our neighbors as ourselves and shine your light in a weary world.

Amen.

the great thanksgiving

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 . . .

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

(ELW Setting Three, page 144)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

communion

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

communion hymn *(sit)*

(ELW Setting Three, page 146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

communion anthem

"Speak O Lord" (Saturday)

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend

Kristin Young, vocal solo

"Melody in F" (Sunday)

by Anton Rubinstein

Kurt Muth, violin

Kristin Young, piano

the distribution

post-communion prayer *(stand)*

blessing

sending song

"Be Thou My Vision" (ELW 793)

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Verse 1

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Verse 4

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

dismissal

Go in peace.

Be God's messengers of love.

Thanks be to God!