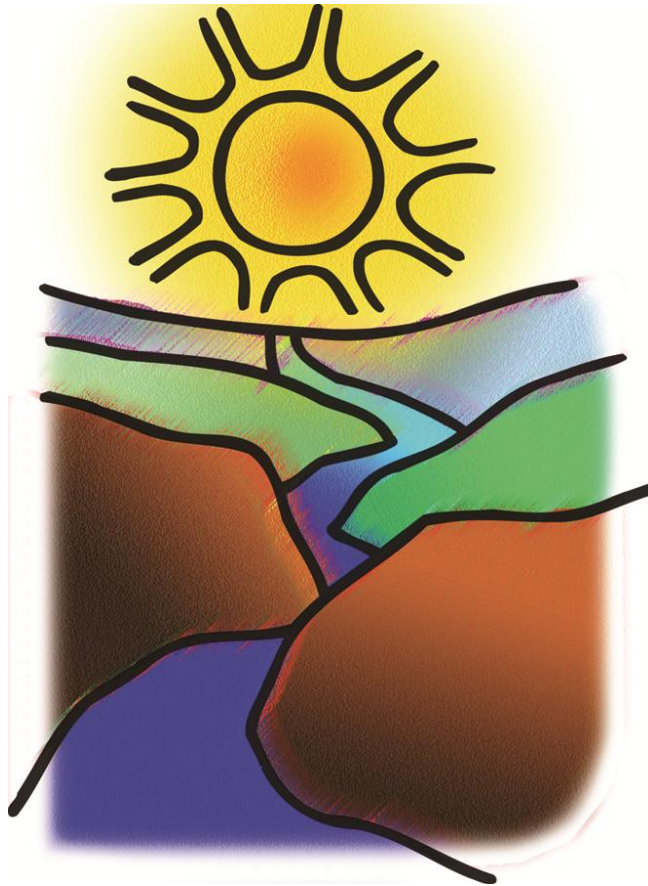




*Worship on the
10th Sunday after Pentecost*

August 2, 2026



*Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community*

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Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them.

Gathering Song: Come All You People

Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.
Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,



Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
God of creation,
we give thanks for the goodness of the earth
that you made and sustain.
Our voices join in praise with all creation:
with the sea that roars,
the trees that clap their hands,
and the birds that sing in joy.
Unite us by your Spirit,
that we may be signs of your abundant mercy
and live in thanksgiving for your grace,
as we wait for the completion of your creation
in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Children's Message & Back to School Blessing



1 Kings 19:9-18

Our first reading comes from 1st Kings the 19th Chapter.

At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The word of God is with us, on our lips and in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 10:5-15

Our second reading comes from Romans the 10th Chapter.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." 6 But the



righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say?

"The word is near you,

in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), 9 because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. 11 The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

The word of God is with us, on our lips and in our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Announcement

The Gospel of the Lord according to St. Matthew the 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 14:22-33

[Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."



28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Will

Song: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayers of Intercession

Holy One, Holy Three, mother of all creation:
Yours is the womb of all life.
Yours is the fountain of living water.
Yours is the voice that breaks down walls.
Yours is the love that cannot be contained.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

For the thirsty, you give the water of life.
For the hungry, you offer the bread of heaven.
For the weak, you carry heavy burdens.
For the joyful, you shout in holy laughter.
For the anxious, you summon showers of peace.
For the suffering, you breathe sighs of comfort.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



As we pray for the new heaven and new earth, O God, we give thanks for this earth, our partner in your service.

Move us to hear your voice in the song of the sparrow, to see your face reflected in the river.

Awaken us to your greatness through the winds of the storm, and the scent of your grace on the morning dew.

Empower us to hear your prophets in the croaks of evening frogs, to read your gospel in the webs of writing spiders.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

In your great mercy you call us to care for your creation, to uphold one another, and to pray for your world.

Hear our prayers for the healing of the earth:

For clean water, that all may drink,

For the right use of resources

and the careful tending of the land and the seas,

For people and places damaged by war,

For those who suffer, those whose needs are known to us,

and those whose needs are known only to you.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

With confidence that you hear our prayers, we offer ourselves for your good purposes, watching and waiting for the healing of your creation as we work toward your coming reign.

Through Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and praise to you now and forever.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace - Pastor Will

The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you.

The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

Offering: Playful Praise Party with Pastor & Patrick

For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:



Jesus Walks on Water / August 2, 2026



Offertory Prayer

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.
Word and water, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in
our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

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.

Preface

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving
God, creator and sustainer of all life. You spread out the dazzling canopy
of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you
lifted up the mountains and hills, high and stately, and poured out oceans
and rivers, flowing free.

You made all the creatures of the earth to show your glory, and human
beings, in your image, to care for this world, your good gift, our beautiful
and precious home.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with
prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and
with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory
of your name:

Spoken by all:

**You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.**



Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
this cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Instructions & Invitation

Remembrance of Baptism & Celebration of Holy Communion

Table Blessing

Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace unto life everlasting. Amen.



Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, eternal God,
that you have fed us in this sacrament.
Fill us with a vision of your new creation
where all may have life abundantly;
through Jesus Christ, the bread of life.
Amen.

Benediction

May the One who creates us, go with and before us,
May the One who saves us, lead us into everlasting life,
May the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of peace.
Amen.

Meal Prayer

Dismissal

Go and join the song of creation, singing out in praise to God.
Go and join the cries of creation, yearning for healing.
Go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the elements, **all of which** are free from alcohol, gluten, dairy, eggs, soy, rice, corn, and potato products so that all may share from one loaf and one cup. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Flowers

The flower arrangement on our Communion Table today are given by Carla & Robert Burkhardt in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary and by Shandry & John Peugeot in celebration of the 15th Wedding Anniversary!



NOMA End Addiction Walk – Saturday, August 8

St. Mark's will have a table again at this year's NOMA's End Addiction Walk on Saturday, August 8 from 8:30-11:30am. We can use your help showing hospitality, passing out literature and waters, and setup/cleanup duties. Sign up in Communication Central if you are interested. Reach out to Karen Petersen with any questions.

Rally Day – Sunday, August 9

It's time to elevate and celebrate as we launch into a new year of learning, serving, music making, and so much more! Rally Day festivities start in worship on August 9 as our council members lead various parts of worship and then hang out in the coffee area for a meet and greet for all who want to get involved. Further down the hallway, we'll have an open house where you'll be invited to meet the teachers & classrooms of our upcoming fall learning schedule. If making music is more your speed, Patrick will be hanging out in the music wing of the sanctuary to chat about choir, handbells, or praise team.

St. Mark's Night at Huntsville City Football Club - Sunday, August 16

Olé, Olé, Olé, Olé! Join us for a fun night of sport with Huntsville's own soccer team, the Huntsville City Football Club! On Sunday, August 16 at 6pm, we'll watch Huntsville City FC play against Inter Miami CF II. Tickets are on sale now at \$23 each (children 3 & under are free). Purchase tickets in the Narthex on Sundays using cash or check.

WELCA Collection – Personal Care Kits

This year St. Mark's WELCA is assembling personal care kits on Tuesday, August 18 from 4-6 pm at St. Mark's. Anyone interested in helping assemble kits can come to the Fellowship Hall for a drop-in "Brown Bag Dinner" and kit assembly meeting. Bring your dinner and be ready to assemble health kits. Assembled kits will be delivered to LWR along with quilts to be distributed throughout the world to needy families. Items to be included can be brought to the donation bin in Communication Central before August 18 or, if helping to assemble, bring the items at that time.



From Welcome to Witness: Supporting LGBTQIA+ People in Today's World

On Saturday, August 22, from 9am - 2pm, we will be hosting a workshop featuring award-winning author and advocate Jamie Breusehoff. Rooted in her queer identity, her experiences raising a transgender child, and over two decades of working with youth and families, Jamie brings clarity, compassion, and hope to conversations often marked by fear and misinformation. Jamie's workshop will help us with becoming a more open, compassionate, and inclusive congregation. This is a free event, with lunch provided, but you must register beforehand (please use the QR code to register). If you would like to help with this event, please use the link in the Monday email to sign up.



In addition to the workshop on Saturday, Jamie will also be joining us for worship and Sunday Learning on Sunday, August 23. She will lead a discussion on her recent book *Raising Kids beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children*.

New Member Class - Sunday, August 23 at 2pm

Curious About Membership? Start Here. If you've been worshipping with us, exploring St. Mark's, or just wondering what it would mean to call this community home, we'd love to invite you to our New Member Class on Sunday, August 23 from 2-3:30pm in The Gathering Place. Coffee and light refreshment will be provided. Come learn about St. Mark's, ask whatever questions are on your mind, and find out how your gifts and story fit the life of the congregation. After the class, those who wish to become members will be received and celebrated in worship the following Sunday. We hope you'll consider taking this first step with us! A sign up is located in Communication Central. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Will.

St. Mark's Staff

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