

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**  
***Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 14***

**Welcome to worship this morning at St. Mark's Lutheran Church!**

The order below will help you to find your way through our worship service. We are using the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book (red). The hymns are found in the main section marked with black numbers, the liturgy (p), if not printed, in the front section of the book. Thank you!

P (Pastor) L (Lector) C (Congregation)

Church Bells  
Organ Prelude

Shannon Mattson

Welcome

**Gathering Hymn # 692: We Are an Offering**

Call to Worship with words from Psalm 65:

P: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

**C: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

P: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

**C: You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.**

P: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

**C: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.**

P: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

**C: You crown the year with your bounty.**

P: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

**Call to Confession:**

P: Loving God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

P: Gracious God, have mercy on us.

**C: We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things we have done, and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

God, who is rich in mercy in Christ Jesus, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Gracious God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Reading from the Old Testament, Book of the Prophet Isaiah, 55, 10 – 13:

*"My Thoughts are not your thoughts..."*

**Celtic Alleluia # 174**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13, 1 – 9 & 18 – 23:  
The Reckless Sower

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day # 369: Now the Green Blade Rises**

*- The offering is gathered -*

P: With the whole church let us 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 to the dead.***

***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 again 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.***

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always

**C: And also with you**

Prayers of Intercession, concluding: God, in your mercy

**C: hear our prayer**

Announcements

**Sending Hymn # 679: For the Fruit of All Creation**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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**Announcements:**

July 25th, 2023– 07:00 pm extraordinary council meeting



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