



*Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good. His love  
endures forever.*

*Psalm 136*



November 23, 2017  
Thanksgiving Day

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



Pastor Aaron Nitz  
Principal Nathan Bitter  
2220 Anne St NW, Bemidji, MN 56601  
(218) 444-3939  
[www.stmarksbemidji.org](http://www.stmarksbemidji.org)

## **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 entry area.
- Our fellowship hall is equipped with a speaker and child-friendly toys.
- Our service lasts about 65 minutes.

## **His love endures forever: Psalm 136**

There are all sorts of reasons for a believer in Jesus to give thanks: our sins are forgiven, we're going to heaven, God is with us day-by-day, etc., in addition to all the "normal" reasons for which we're thankful at Thanksgiving time, like food, clothes, homes, etc. Perhaps all of it comes together in the phrase, "His love endures forever." Today Psalm 136 will direct our worship. In that Psalm each verse begins by listing a reason for thanksgiving, and each verse ends with that phrase: "His love endures forever." Faithfully God continues to love us, continues to care for us, and will do so until we reach our eternal home in heaven.

## **Prayer Before Worship**

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom this world rejoices.  
Who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. Amen.

# We Come into God's Presence

*Please stand*

## LITANY OF PRAISE AND ADORATION *(Based on Psalm 136)*

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

**Congregation: His love endures forever.**

M: Give thanks to the God of gods.

**C: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:**

M: to him who alone does great wonders,

**C: who by his understanding made the heavens,**

M: who spread out the earth upon the waters,

**C: who made the great lights—**

M: the sun to govern the day,

**C: the moon and stars to govern the night;**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His love endures forever.**

M: to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

**C: and brought Israel out from among them**

M: with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

**C: to him who divided the Red Sea asunder**

M: and brought Israel through the midst of it,

**C: but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His love endures forever.**

M: to him who led his people through the desert,  
C: **who struck down great kings,**  
M: and killed mighty kings—  
C: **Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan—**  
M: and gave their land as an inheritance,  
C: **an inheritance to his servant Israel;**  
M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
C: **His love endures forever.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: God our Father, Your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of Your Spirit lead us to acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; we pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

M: To the One who remembered us in our low estate  
C: **and freed us from our enemies,**  
M: and who gives food to every creature.  
C: **Give thanks to the God of heaven.**  
M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
C: **His love endures forever.**

*All sing:*           **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;           (CW 334)**  
                          **Praise him, all creatures here below;**  
                          **Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;**  
                          **Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

*Be seated*

# His Love Endures Forever!

## *As Seen in Creation*

Psalm 136:4-9 NIV

- <sup>4</sup> to him who alone does great wonders,  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>5</sup> who by his understanding made the heavens,  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>7</sup> who made the great lights—  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>8</sup> the sun to govern the day,  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to govern the night;  
*His love endures forever.*

## HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*Christian Worship 234 (v.1-3)*

## *As Seen in Redemption*

Psalm 136:10-15 NIV

- <sup>10</sup> to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>11</sup> and brought Israel out from among them  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>12</sup> with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>13</sup> to him who divided the Red Sea asunder  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>14</sup> and brought Israel through the midst of it,  
*His love endures forever.*
- <sup>15</sup> but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;  
*His love endures forever.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Those loved by God: we come before our Almighty Lord with repentant and contrite hearts and confess our sins before our heavenly Father, pleading to him in the name of our Lord Jesus to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Oh Lord, our Redeemer, I confess I am by nature enslaved to sin. Too often it masters me and drives me away from You and Your everlasting love. I do not deserve Your love but deserve to be cast away from Your presence. Please have mercy on me, a sinner!**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and shows His everlasting love in this: He sent His Son to live and die for us. Jesus' death has freed you from sin's slavery. He won for you spiritual freedom. Your sins are forgiven! Go now, in peace and joy, as redeemed children of God! Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!

C: **"His love endures forever."**

## HYMN

**"Go Down, Moses"** (LAPPY p.90, v.1,3,4)

*Printed on the next page*

## *As Seen in His Faithfulness*

**Psalm 136:16-22 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> to him who led his people through the desert,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>17</sup> who struck down great kings,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>18</sup> and killed mighty kings—

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>19</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>20</sup> and Og king of Bashan—

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>21</sup> and gave their land as an inheritance,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>22</sup> an inheritance to his servant Israel;

*His love endures forever.*



## We Respond With Thanks

### THE OFFERING

*As we consider what God has done – that Jesus lived, died, and rose, and all for us – we're moved to say, "Thank you, God!" Bringing an offering is one way we "say" that. But God has blessed us in so many ways. **So today we will "write a thank you note" to God.** The ushers will distribute notecards and pens. You are invited to write something or some things for which you would like to especially thank God for and place the notecard along with your offering in the offering plate. (The notes will be discarded after worship, so please do NOT put an offering into the note card.)*

### HYMN

"Give Thanks" (LAPPY p.84)

*Sing through two times*

**Refrain:** Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord has done for us. Refrain**

*(Ending)* Give thanks.

Text and tune by Henry Smith. © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music  
All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI# 11251928.



*As He Remembers Us in our Low Estate* Psalm 136:23-26 NIV

<sup>23</sup> He remembered us in our low estate

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>24</sup> and freed us from our enemies.

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>25</sup> He gives food to every creature.

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven.

*His love endures forever.*

*Please stand*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR THANKSGIVING**

**M:** Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

**C:** **Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

**M:** Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

**C:** **Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**

**M:** Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

**C:** **Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

**C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

**C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

#### **THE BLESSING**

M: 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**

**"Now Thank We All Our God"**

*Christian Worship 610*

## We at St. Mark's believe...

- ✝ In an age of anxiety, we believe that real peace comes from Jesus Christ.
- ✝ In an age of confusion, we believe that the Bible is the word of God, without error.
- ✝ In an age of doubt, we believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- ✝ In an age of guilt, we believe that Jesus died on the cross to remove the power of sin from our lives.
- ✝ In an age of hopelessness, we believe that Jesus rose physically from death—and so will we rise.
- ✝ In an age of skepticism, we believe that God is at work in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.
- ✝ In an age of despair, we believe God's promises to heal and transform us.
- ✝ In an age of violence, we believe that God calls us to embody his love in the world.
- ✝ In an age of constant change, we believe in the unchanging Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✝ St. Mark's is a Christian community with deep roots in the historic Christian/Lutheran church. We hold the three ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions to be faithful expressions of God's truth revealed to us in the Bible. St. Mark's is a member of the nationwide church body called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



Give THANKS  
TO THE LORD, for  
HIS LOVE endures  
*forever* • PSALM 118:1 NIV