

Today's Theme: The Struggle Within

Believers following Jesus are called to bear crosses. We expect the hostility from the outside world. But sadly, because we are sinful, some of the most painful experiences of Christians come not from outside, but from fellow Christians. Satan uses every tool at his disposal to stir up envy, jealousy, anger and bitterness. Today we pray that God guide and rule us in all things and aid us with our internal struggle by focusing us again on his Son.

Service of Word and Sacrament

PRESERVICE MUSIC: *Please use this time in quiet preparation for worship.*



- ✘ *The bell rings announcing that Christians are gathering around the Word.*
- ✘ *The minister processes with the acolyte who carries a flame symbolizing that the light of Jesus is with us, and the candles are lit.*
- ✘ *As the acolyte and minister enter, **please stand** to sing the opening hymn.*

OPENING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be #469 (v.1-3)

- 1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *(Kyrie)*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: *(sung)* Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sung)* Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: *(sung)* Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

(music can be found in the front of the hymnal on page 28)

C: *(sung)* O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 11:16,24-29 (NIV)

¹⁶The LORD said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you.”

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

²⁶However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

²⁸Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

²⁹But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

SONG BY THE DAY SCHOOL (K-4th)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all

Verse 1: Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings **Refrain**

Verse 2: The purple headed mountain, The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning That brightens up the sky. **Refrain**

Verse 3: He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

James 4:7-12 (NIV)

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

VERSE OF THE DAY

Philippians 2:10,11 (NIV)

M: Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.

C: *(sung)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Please stand

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50 (NIV)

³⁸“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

⁴²“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where

“the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched.’

⁴⁹Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

M: This is the gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

May the Mind of Christ My Savior #467

- 1 May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow’r inspiring All I do or say.
- 2 May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow’r.
- 3 May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in ev’rything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.

- 4 May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing—This is victory!
- 5 May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.
- 6 May his spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him.

SERMON

Text: Mark 9:38-50

Theme: "When we are weak, then we are strong!"

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully 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 and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

OFFERING

The members of St. Mark have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Those who wish to give an offering may give electronically through our website, scan this QR code, or mail a check to church. Website and mailing addresses are listed at the top of page 1.



Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.
- C:** **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**
- M:** Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 Sacrament

At St. Mark we practice the custom of Close Communion, inviting to our altar only confirmed members of our church body, the WELS, and of those in fellowship with us. We do this because Communion is also a sign of Christian unity, based upon agreement on the doctrines of the Bible. This is not an insult to our Christian brethren in other denominations, but a recognition of differing church teachings. We, with all Christians, look forward to the day when we will all sit together in peace at the marriage feast of the Lamb. (See 1 Corinthians 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 11:27-29)



M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: (sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)

C: (*sung*) **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

C: (*sung*) **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Renew Me, O Eternal Light #471

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from your holy face.
- 2 Destroy in me the lust of sin; From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me pow'r and strength, my God, To strive against my flesh and blood.

- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire And with new life my soul inspire.
- 4 Grant that I only you may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd #508

- 1 Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, Children all are dear to you;
May your loving arms enfold them In your care their whole life through.
Gently tend and safely keep them In your mercy strong and true.
- 2 Tender Shepherd, never leave them, Never let them go astray;
By your warning love directed, May they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them Lest they fall an easy prey.
- 3 By your holy Word instruct them; Fill their minds with heav'nly light.
By your pow'rful grace convince them Always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy; Let them find your burden light.
- 4 Taught to love the holy praises Which on earth your children sing,
With their lips and hearts, sincerely, Glad thankoff' rings may they bring,
Then with all the saints in glory Join to praise their Lord and King.

Please stand

THANK THE LORD *(music can be found in the front of the hymnal on page 36)*

C: (sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

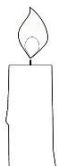
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be #469 (v.4-6)

- 4 Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart—it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.



At the end of the service, the acolyte extinguishes the candles and carries the flame out of church to symbolize that the light of Jesus goes with us into the world.



Let us know you worshipped with us!

If you take a picture of this QR code with most smartphones it will take you to our Friendship Register and Online Connection Card. You may also visit: stmarksbemidji.org/online-connection-card/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Christian Worship: Service of Word and Sacrament.

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