



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Oakland, Maryland 21550
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***Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor***

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

August 9, 2026
11th Sunday After Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Ach Elslein ”

Ludwig Senfl (1486-1542)

**** CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

✙ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God,

Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God’s love.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save ”

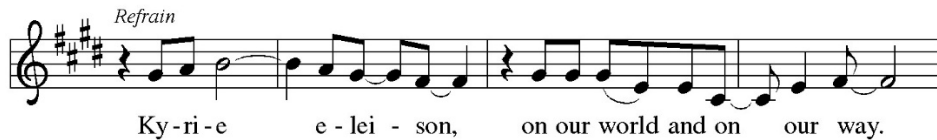
No. 756

**** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** KYRIE



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ 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.”

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

We will read the Psalm responsively, starting with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. R**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

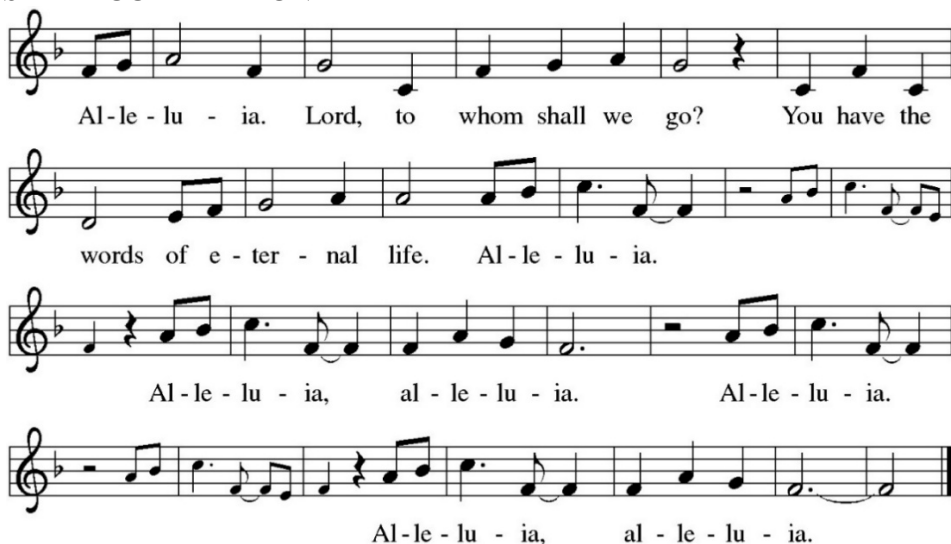
¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ 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!”

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



** GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

²² [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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 763

“ My Life Flows On in Endless Song ”

**** APOSTLES CREED**

**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 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Please be seated)*

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“ Tant que vivray ”

Claudin de Sermisy (1490-1562)

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 184

“ Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

**** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

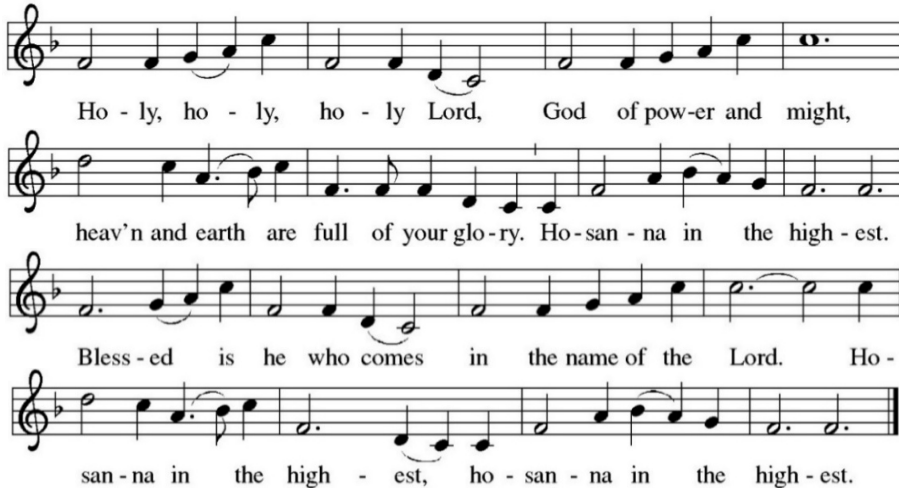
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**** PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

**** COMMUNION SONG**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord's table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

No. 773

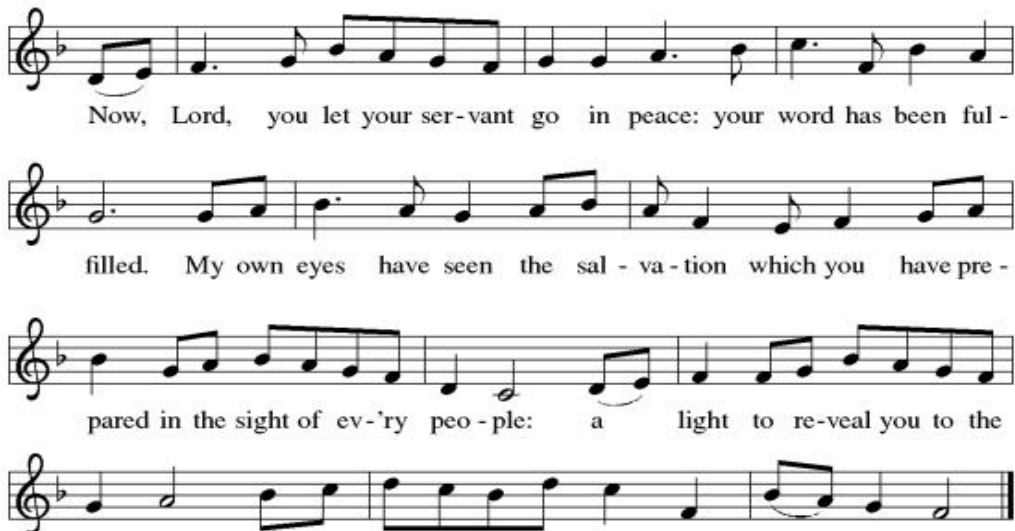
"When Peace like a River"

No. 785

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

**** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

**** BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 773

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare for a Festival”

J.J. Mouret

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar August 9, 2026 – August 16, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion
- Monday** - Finance Committee at Noon
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday** - Congregational Council at 5:00 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Riley Feathers
Lector:	Don Sincell
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Special Music:	Marsh Mountain Consort
	Joy Fernon, Nan Gangler, Tom Johnson, Jennifer Lohman, Marci McClive, Dan Muss, Ruth Seib
Recorder:	Kathy Johnson
Communion Clean-up:	Barb Ponceroff & Dawn Panther
Flower Delivery:	Liz Lewis & Peggy Jamison
Safe Keeper:	Phyllis Rinker
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Capt.
	Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey, Joann Kinzy

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at pastorcarrie@stmarksoakland.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



The Altar Flowers are given in the by Bob & Betsy Dempsey
in celebration of their 65th Anniversary on August 12.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Peter, Robert Hodges, Ava, Connie Leary, Emily, Marie, Joyce Chaney, Debbie, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric, Jeff Gilbert, Marylynn, Michael, Sally, George, David, Roger, Clint, C.J. Bennett, Micah Teter, John Arnold, Ray, Laura and her unborn child, Katie LeDuc, Diane LeDuc, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Erina, Miss Ann Collins, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli M., Athena, Kella & Baby, Garrett, Amy Bacha. Jimmy Meyers, Gary Thorn

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 11

Summer Book Group

Saturday, August 15

Canning Workshop – Canning Tomatoes

Sunday, September 13

St. Mark's Outdoor Worship & Family Picnic

Announcements

Summer Book Group

Tuesday, August 11

For our final gathering, we'll explore Chapter 4, "Amen," from Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. In this concluding section, Lamott touches on how "Amen" brings the three prayers to a close, symbolizing a quiet settling and acceptance of our current circumstances. All are welcome as we gather for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. Please bring a chair. If you want to bring a light snack / hors d'oeuvre to share, that would be wonderful (but certainly optional).

Stuff The School Bus

Join Garrett County Public Schools and the United Way of Garrett County. Each year, school supplies are collected from various businesses throughout the community and dropped off at the bus located in front of Walmart. We are gathering supplies in our school bus in the Narthex to take to them on August 12. All of these supplies go to Garrett County schools to help students in need of additional supplies. Make plans now to participate by donating or volunteering!

Supplies include: Backpacks, Colored Pencils, Composition Books, Crayons, Erasers, Glue Sticks/Glue, Highlighters, Notebook Paper, Paper Plates, Pencils, Pens, Pencil Cases, Post-It Notes, Reusable Water Bottles, Scissors, Thin Dry-Erase Markers, 3 Prong Folders w/Pockets, 3-Ring Binders, 1 Subject Spiral Notebooks, 3 Subject Spiral Notebooks, Washable Markers, Zip Lock Bags

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Here are a few things to help you feel comfortable in our space and more fully participate in worship. If you have questions at any time, our ushers will be happy to help.

Restrooms

- A first-floor restroom is available. Facing the pulpit, use the door to the left, enter the church office, and the restroom is located on the right.
- Restrooms and water fountains are also available downstairs. From the back of the sanctuary (narthex), take the steps downstairs, turn right into Fellowship Hall, restrooms are on the right and the water fountain is on the left.

Accessibility & Comfort

- Our bulletins contain the order of worship so you can easily follow along. You are invited to participate in the liturgy in areas indicated in bold and hymns can be found in the red hymnal.
- If standing during worship is uncomfortable, please feel free to remain seated.
- Hearing assistance devices and large-print bulletins are available—please ask an usher.

Visitors

- If you are visiting, we invite you to sign the guest registry located on the stand near the front doors or fill out a visitor envelope found in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate.
- If you or someone you know is in need of an extra prayer, please fill out a card in the pew back in front of you, and an usher will be by during the prelude to collect it.

Children

- Children's worship bags are available in the narthex. You are welcome to pick one up for your child(ren).

Electronics

- Please silence or turn off cell phones and electronic devices so that all may focus on worship.

Holy Communion

- If Holy Communion is celebrated today, please know that all are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available on the side tables and wine will be poured from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

Thank you for worshiping with us today—we are glad you are here.



August 9, 2026, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:22-33

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Loving God, when we are tempted to be afraid your hand is right there to calm us. Show us that we have no reason for fear, as you have promised to be with us forever, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
(Matthew 14:26-27)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The disciples are afraid. The storm has taken their boat and Jesus is not with them. Then they recognize Jesus' divinity in the miracle of calming the storms—both the storm on the water, and the storm that welled inside of them when they were afraid.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **What scares you? Courage is not absence of fear, but moving toward and through the scary thing despite the fear. What gives you courage?**
- **For the littles: What are you scared of? Who or what makes you feel brave?**



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you courage. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Consider something you have been putting off doing because you are afraid. Pray for the courage to do it. Take one step (or more!) this week to move toward and through the fear.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29

Wednesday, Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27

Thursday, Psalm 133; Genesis 41:14-36; Revelation 15:1-4

Friday, Psalm 133; Genesis 41:37-57; Acts 14:19-28

Saturday, Psalm 133; Genesis 42:1-28; Matthew 14:34-36