



## ***ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*6 South Second Street  
Oakland, Maryland 21550  
301-334-2668  
connect@stmarksoakland.com  
stmarksoakland.com*

*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.*

**February 22, 2026**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Order of Worship**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*“Fantasia on ‘Mit Freuden Zart’ ”*

Robert Hughes

**\*\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:  
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the  
world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ’s call to come forth to  
life: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have  
been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God’s love into your  
hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

**\*\* SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*\* OPENING HYMN**

**No. 319**

*“O Lord Throughout These Forty Days ”*

**\*\* GREETING**

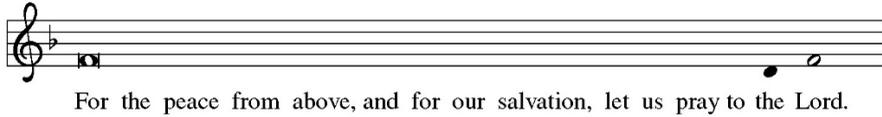
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

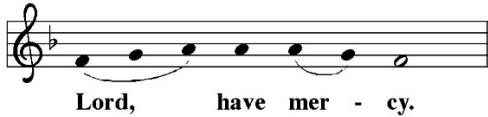
**\*\* KYRIE**



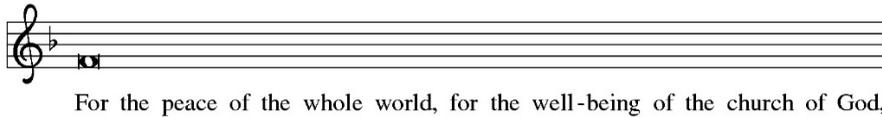
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



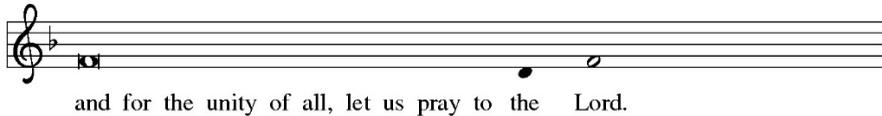
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



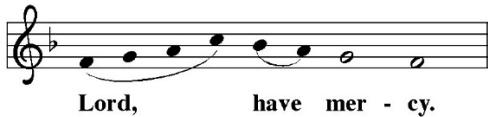
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



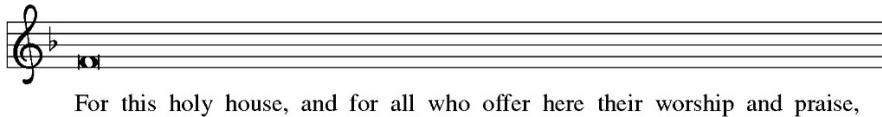
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



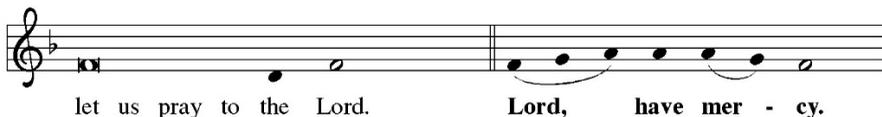
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



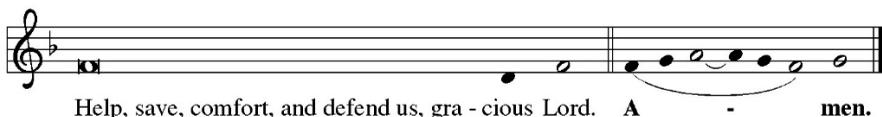
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**PSALM: Psalm 32**

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

*Refrain: Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. R**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye. R**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### \*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### \*\* GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*\* HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 325

*“ I Want Jesus to Walk with Me ”*

**\*\* 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)*

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. *(Especially we pray for . . .)*  
Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“Come, Children of Zion”*

### **\*\* OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 803

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” v.s. 4*

### **\*\* OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

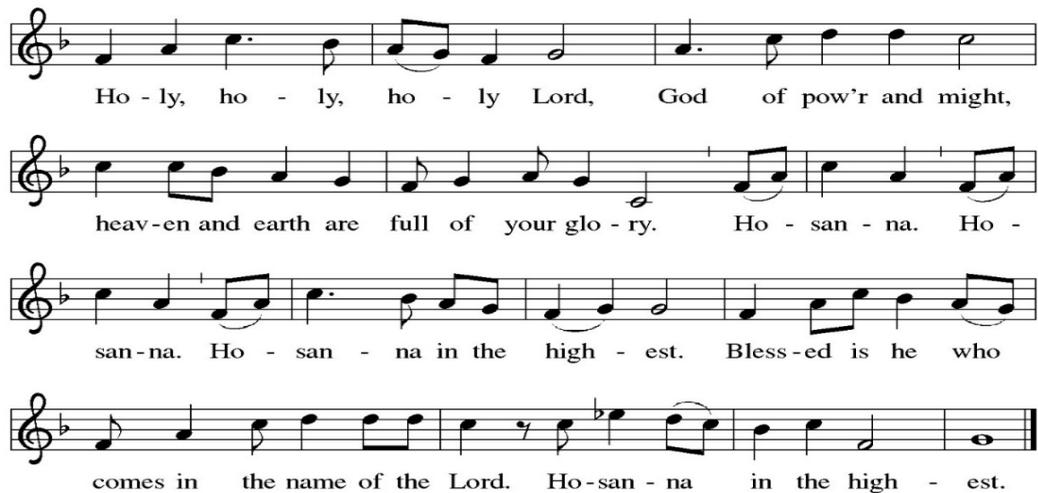
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**\*\* 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**

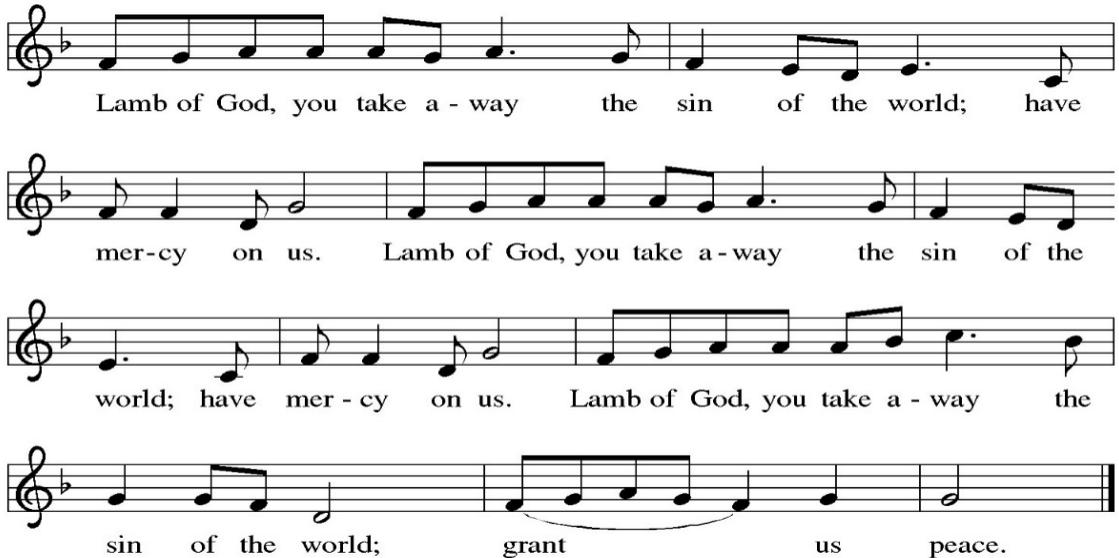
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*“ Lord Jesus, Think on Me ”*

No. 599

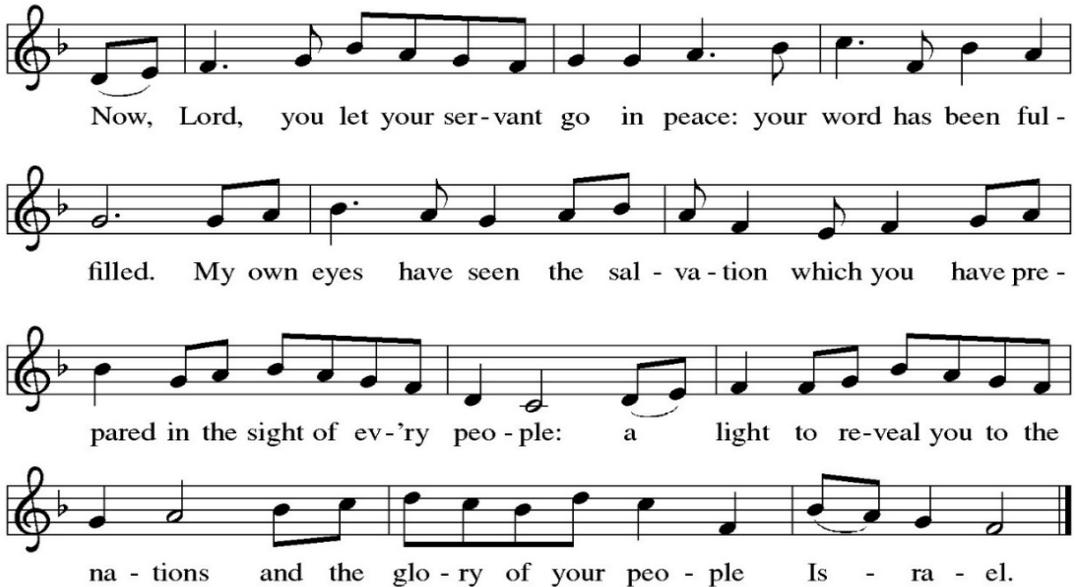
*“ Let Us Break Bread Together ”*

No. 471

**\*\* 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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*\* BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**\*\* CLOSING HYMN**

No. 624

*"Jesus Still Lead On"*

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God. We WILL!**

**POSTLUDE**

*"March From the 'Occasional Oratorio'"*

Handel/arr. Franklin Ridder



## Prayer Requests

**Illness:** Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Peter, Jerry Gank, Robert Hodges, Ava, Uncle Kooch, Connie Leary, Emily, Dennis Wilhelm, Marie, Joyce Chaney

**Special Needs:** Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Bil McGahn, Debra Lohman, Michael, Family of Becky Preston, Christine Chaney

## Announcements

### St. Mark's Volunteers

Are you looking to become more active in the life of the church? There are many important tasks that help our church run smoothly each week—ushering, communion assistance, acolyting, special music, safekeeping, delivering flowers, just to name a few.

Informational booklets are available in the Narthex explaining the various roles and teams, so you can find where your talents best fit. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Carrie or the church office, and they will be happy to guide you in the right direction.

### Christian Crossing Thrift Shop

Christian Crossing Thrift Shop, located in Loch Lynn Heights, is non-profit organization that is staffed by volunteers. The Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks to include preparing clothing, toys, household merchandise, electronics, furniture, and other items for display and sale. In addition, there is need for volunteers to move donated items from the loading area to the retail sections on site and assist with large item donation pickups.

If you can provide a few hours a week of your time, please see Nancy or Monty Pagenhardt or Liz Lewis.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Now – Today</b>	Super Bowl Pantry Food Drive
<b>**Sunday, March 1</b>	Wellness Coffee Hour after Worship
<b>**Wednesday, March 11</b>	Lenten Meal & Devotional 5:15 p.m.
<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	Holy Friday
<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	Easter Sunday

*\*\*Downstairs activities are tentative with pending Elevator Renovation*



## Superbowl Pantry Collection

It is time for our annual Super Bowl Pantry Collection here at St. Mark's. As we support our favorite teams, we will also care for our neighbors in need by collecting items for our pantry, including cereals, canned goods, and easy protein options, along with household items such as individually wrapped/single roll toilet paper, dish soap, hand soap, body wash, personal hygiene wipes, and laundry detergent.

Choose your favored team  
Seattle or New England  
and place your donations in the corresponding team box.



## February 22, 2026, First Sunday in Lent Matthew 4:1-11

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



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

O God, your son did not succumb to temptation under the most extreme duress. May we show even a fraction of his faithfulness, keeping our eyes on you and our hearts true to who we are. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



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

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. (Matthew 4:1-2)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

At the height of hunger and isolation, Jesus keenly feels the stab of temptation in the wilderness. Will he cave in to his primal needs and desires, or stay true to his identity and muster the strength to resist?



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How does a community come to agreement about which laws, rules, or norms are to be followed? Which rules or norms are unique to your setting? How are they followed? How are they enforced?
- What tempts you the most? How can your faith help you resist temptation?
- For the littles: Which is harder to resist... a sweet treat or staying up past bedtime? God can help you resist both!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God deliver you from temptation. Amen.



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

Choose one temptation to resist this week. Look at the challenge not as a punishment, but as an opportunity to be free from the object of your temptation. Notice how you feel after one week of abstinence.



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

Monday, Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18

Tuesday, Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Wednesday, Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14

Thursday, Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Friday, Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31

Saturday, Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

# 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.

## 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.

## **St. Mark's Mission Statement**

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

### **Church Calendar February 22, 2026 – March 1, 2026**

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m.  
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday** - Church Office Closed  
- Church Council at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday** - Church Office Closed
- Next Sunday** - Adult Forum  
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

### **Serving Today**

Acolyte:	Riley Feathers
Lector:	Ruth Bennett
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Kathy Johnson
Communion Clean-up:	Joann Kinzy & Joy Fernon
Safe Keeper:	Phyllis Rinker
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Capt. Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey

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