



WHERE THE *Spirit*
OF THE LORD IS
THERE IS
Freedom

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

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.

July 5, 2026
6th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“America, The Beautiful” by Lani Smith

**** 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,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

God of all mercy,

**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.**

Within ourselves and our communities,

our desire to do what is good

is at war with the evil that dwells in us.

We lament the evil that holds us captive.

We repent of the harm we have done,

and the harm done on our behalf.

Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us

for lives of compassion and courage

through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All-merciful, Almighty God

forgive you all your sins

through the grace of ✠ Jesus Christ,

and by the Spirit's power

strengthen you in doing what is good.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

** PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“ God of Our Fathers ”

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace


our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

**** 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**


Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



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,



Refrain

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

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

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

Refrain: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works. R**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-125a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**** GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 887

“ This Is My 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)*

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy, extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 188

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**** 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.**

**** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 888

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“Sortie on ‘National Hymn’” by Lani Smith

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar July 5, 2026 – July 12, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday - No Yoga
Next Sunday - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Reverend John Burk presiding
- With Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Stephanie Berger
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Special Music:	Beachy's
Recorder:	Nicole Bosley
Flower Delivery:	Liz Lewis
Safe Keeper:	Nicole Bosley
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift

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



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are given by Peggy & Gayle,
in celebration of the United States of America's 250th Birthday
& in thanks for the freedom we have in the USA.



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, Jack, Laura and her unborn child, Katie LeDuc, Diane LeDuc, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt, Beck, Ann, Donna

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Family of Becky Preston, 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, Jake Blamble

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 18

Garrett 250 Bash at GC Fairgrounds 12p – 10p

Tuesday, July 28

Summer Book Group in the Garden at 5:30p

Announcements

Pastor Carrie will be on Vacation July 9-18

During this time, Deacon Mary Sanders will be available for pastoral emergencies. If a pastoral emergency arises, please contact Ellda in the church office during office hours. After hours, you may reach Ellda by cell phone or contact Pastor Carrie by phone or email. We will ensure that Deacon Mary is notified and connected with you as needed.

Ellda Cell: 304-698-5295

Pastor Carrie Cell: 443-974-1738

Summer Book Group

Tuesday, July 28

For our next gathering, we'll explore Chapter 3, "Wow," from Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. In this chapter, Lamott reminds us that "wow" is the prayer of awe, wonder, and amazement. It is the prayer we offer when we recognize beauty, experience unexpected joy, or catch a glimpse of God's presence in the ordinary moments of life. Together we'll explore what it means to cultivate wonder—even in the midst of busy, imperfect lives—and how learning to say "wow" can deepen our faith and draw us closer to God. 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).

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).

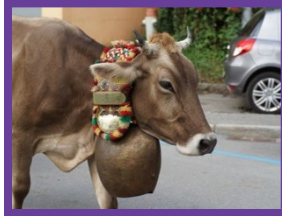
Electronics

- 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.



July 5, 2026, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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



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

Gracious God, you invite us to come and play in your kingdom where all have a role and a purpose. Help us give up what we need to in order to be faithful members of the body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



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

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus compares hearers to a game of life that thrives when all players agree on the rules. When one side or the other refuses to engage, the game falls apart. Jesus invites us all into his game of mutual understanding where the "yoke is easy and [the] burden is light."



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What burdens are you shouldering today? What might happen if you gave those to Jesus and let your shoulders rest?
- For the littles: Where is your favorite place to rest? How does it feel to rest?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God lighten your burdens. Amen.



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

Give your brain and body a rest. Take 3-5 minutes every day this week to meditate. Use an app like *Calm* or *Simple Habits*, or simply breathe.



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

Monday, Song of Sol. 2:8-13; Genesis 27:30-46; Romans 1:18-25

Tuesday, Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:1-14; Romans 3:1-8

Wednesday, Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Genesis 29:31-35; John 13:1-17

Thursday, Psalm 119:105-112; Exodus 3:1-6; Romans 2:12-16

Friday, Psalm 119:105-112; Deuteronomy 32:1-10; Romans 15:14-21

Saturday, Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 2:1-4; John 12:44-50