



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

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

**March 29, 2026**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
**Order of Worship**

**\*\* GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*\* PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*\* BLESSING OF PALMS**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 344

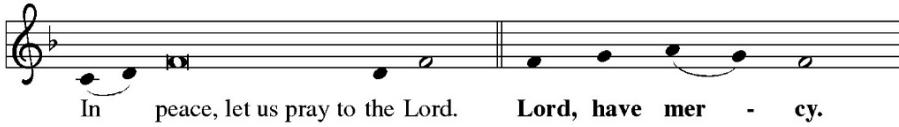
*“ All Glory, Laud, and Honor ”*

**\*\* GREETING**

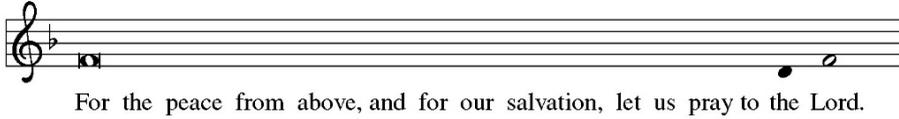
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

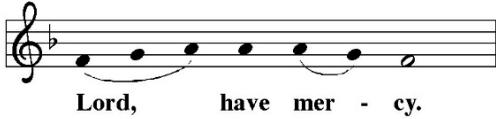
**\*\* KYRIE**



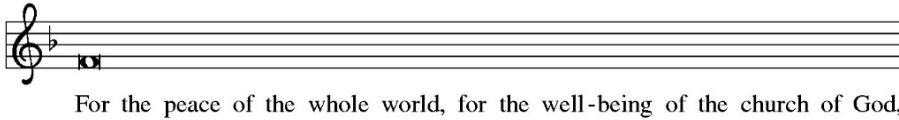
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



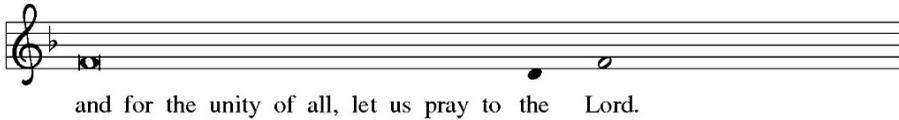
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



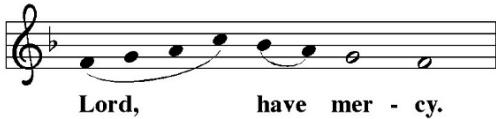
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



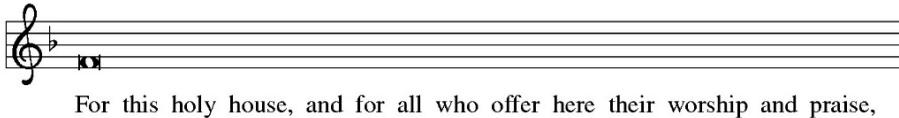
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



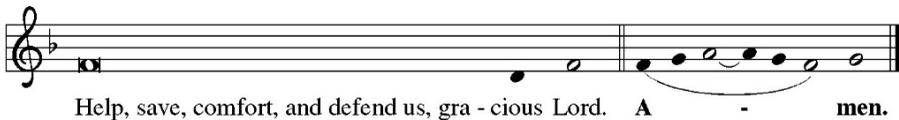
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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. O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

*Refrain: Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;**

**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a broken pot. R**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**

**I have said, “You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant;**

**save me in your steadfast love.” R**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

A reading from Philippians. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## INVITATION AND READING OF THE PASSION

*(Please be seated)*

### \*\* HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 342

*“ There in God’s Garden ”*

### \*\* APOSTLE’S 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*

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

*"Ave Verum"* by Mozart/Lani Smith

**\*\* OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 814

*"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"*

**\*\* 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, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into 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

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

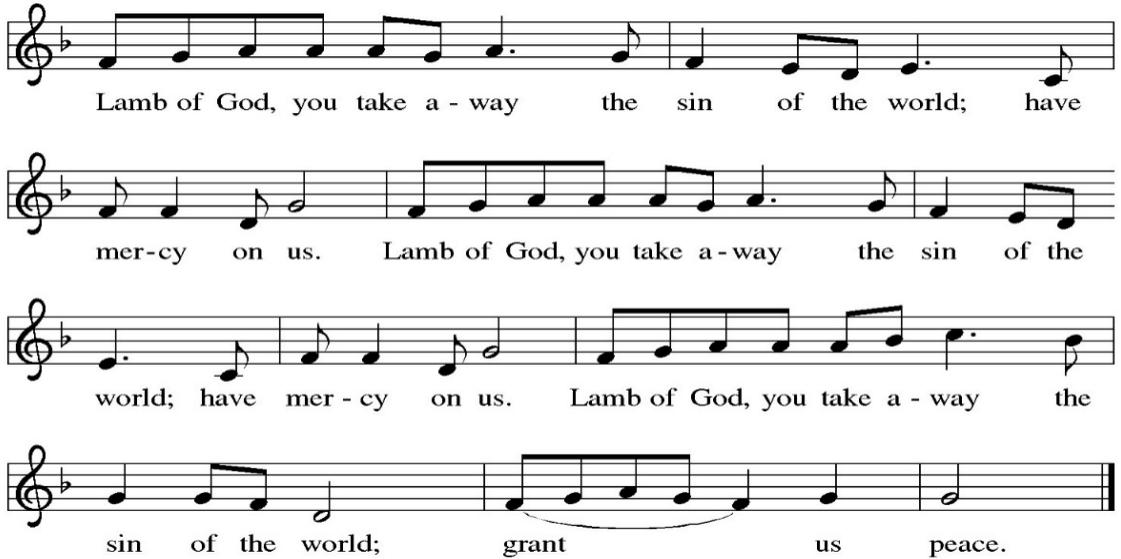
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

**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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

“Were You There ”

No. 353

“Ah, Holy Jesus ”

No. 349

**\*\* 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**

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. 338

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God. WE WILL!**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Solemn March"* by Mozart/Jon Troutman

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

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

### **Church Calendar March 29, 2026 – April 5, 2026**

- Today** Palm/Passion Sunday  
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 5 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Handbell Practice at 6:30 p.m.  
- Choir Practice at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday** Maundy Thursday  
- Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m.  
with Holy Communion
- Friday** Good Friday  
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.
- Sunday** Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day  
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
with Holy Communion

### **Serving Today**

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Don Sincell
Gospel Readers:	Pastor Carrie & Don Sincell
Music Directors:	Debi and Sean Beachy
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Recording:	Renate Murray
Communion Clean-Up:	Janet & Jeff Gregory
Safekeeper:	Phyllis Rinker
Ushers:	Terry Savage; Capt, Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift, Joann Kinzy

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



## Prayer Requests

**Illness:** Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Peter, Jerry Gank, Robert Hodges, Ava, Connie Leary, Emily, Marie, Joyce Chaney, Debbie, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Sig Blamble, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, baby Davis Wilson who is recovering from heart surgery, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric

**Special Needs:** Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Bil McGahn, Debra Lohman, Michael, Family of Becky Preston, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Erina, Miss Ann Collins, Shania

## Upcoming Events

<b>Today</b>	Palm/Passion Sunday
<b>Thursday, April 2</b>	Maundy Thursday
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	Good Friday
<b>Sunday, April 5</b>	Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday
<b>**Sunday, April 12</b>	Easter Sunday Breakfast Easter Hymn Sing

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

## Special Offering:

### **St. Mark's Memorial Garden Maintenance & Paver Orders**

This month, we are collecting donations to support the annual maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Your generous contributions help us preserve this sacred space as a place of remembrance, reflection, and peace for our church family.

We are also opening paver orders for the Memorial Garden walkway. If you have a loved one that you would like to be remembered with a commemorative paver, please complete an order form available in the narthex and place it in the offering plate.

Thank you for helping us care for and grow this meaningful ministry.



## March 29, 2026, Palm/Passion Sunday Matthew 26:14-27:66

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



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

Holy Jesus, you came to Jerusalem seeking not empty worship but faithfulness to your commandments. Guide us now as we begin this week of contemplation and keep us close to your side as we retrace the steps of your final earthly journey. In your name, we pray. Amen.



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

*The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9)*



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

Jesus' final visit to Jerusalem is not to be missed. Arriving in spontaneous fanfare and then confronting the temple merchants over their exploitation of others. The week of reckoning has only begun.



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

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **Where do you see the presence of a dying Jesus in the world today? Where do you see the presence of a resurrected Jesus?**
- **What are you most afraid of? How can Jesus' presence in your life help you overcome your fear?**
- **For the littles: Jesus had a grand parade in Jerusalem. Describe the parade you would host if Jesus rode into your town.**



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

**May God dance in your parade. Amen.**



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

**Attend Holy Week worship services this week. Write down one thing you get from each service. Carry it with you and reflect on it throughout the weekend.**



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

Monday, Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday, Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thursday, Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Heb. 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, Job 14:1-14; Ps. 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt. 27:57-66

# 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.