

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.

November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *" The Brightest Trumpet "* by Franklin Ritter

**** 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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
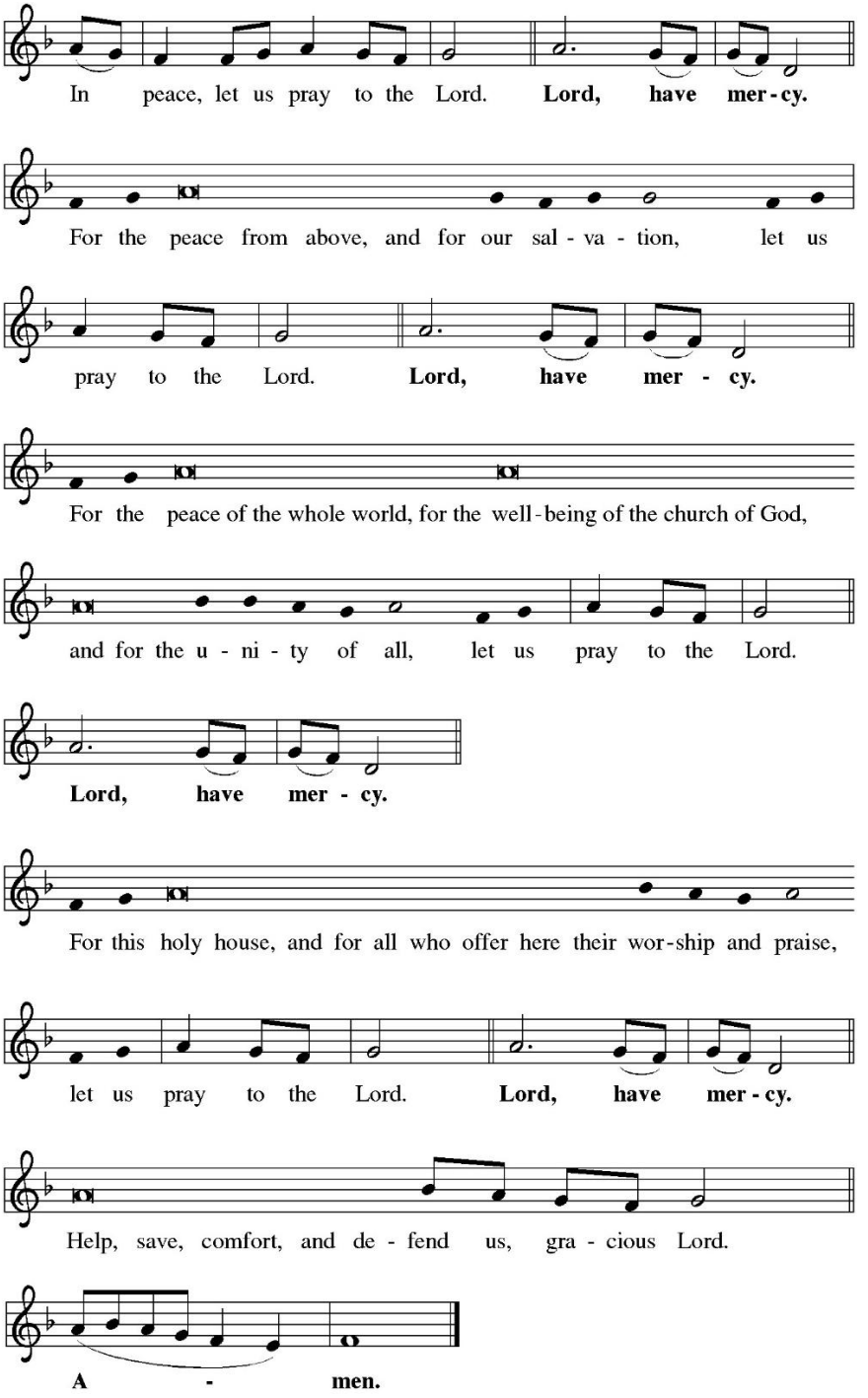
**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN** **No.** 870

" We Praise You, O God"
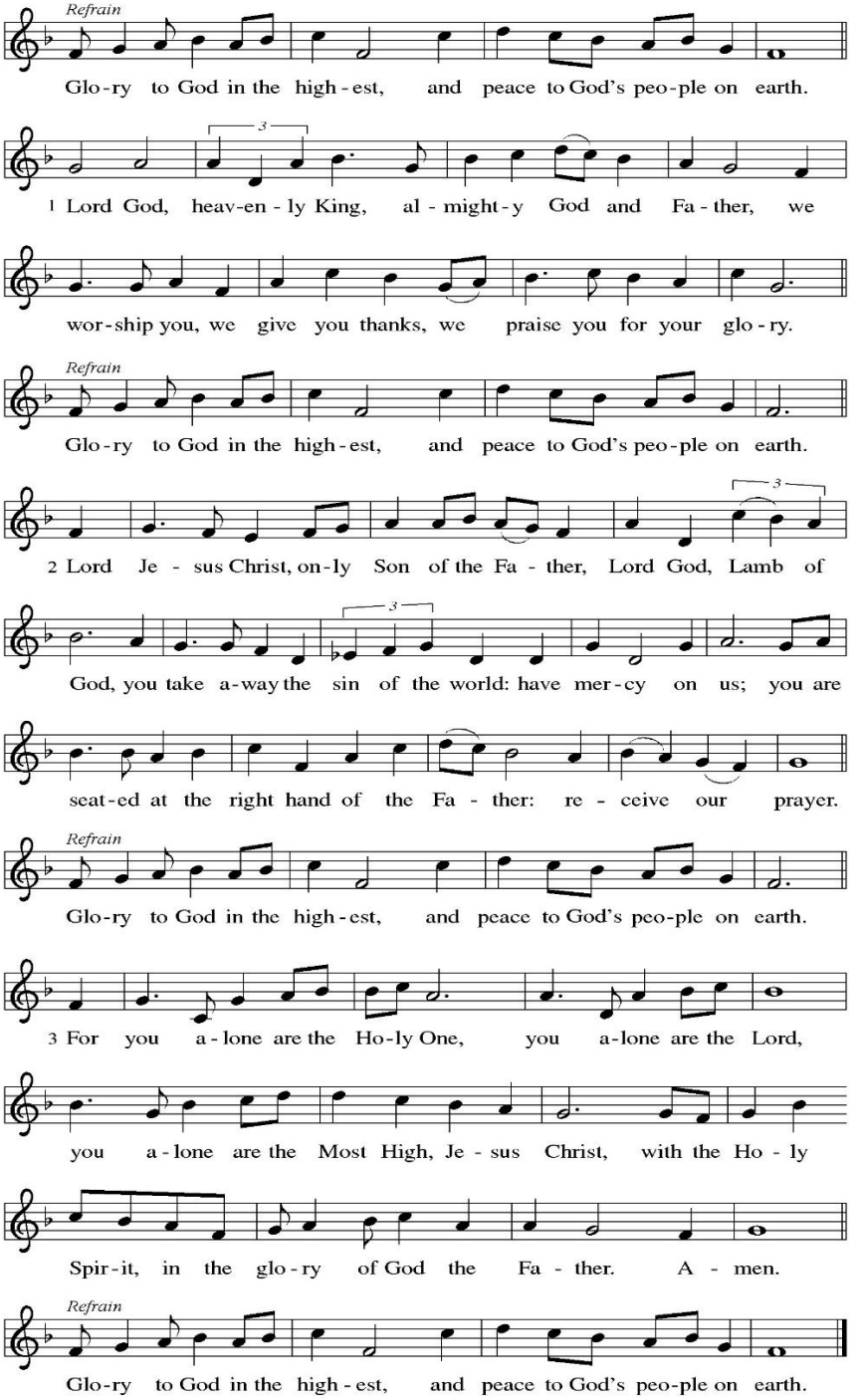
**** GREETING**

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 sal - va - tion, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men.

** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has prepared a
sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will
punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do
good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine
from them. 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the
LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and
anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick
darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they
have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the
fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the
inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12

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

Refrain: **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.** *(Ps. 90:12)*
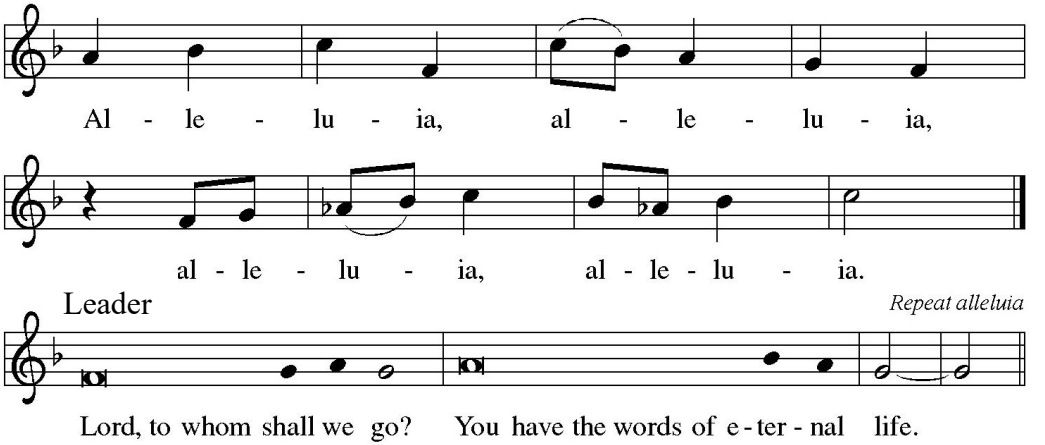
1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night; R
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. R
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

[11] Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
[12] **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

** **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



** **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

[19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Carrie Hoff

** **HYMN OF THE DAY** No. 688

" Lord of Light "

** **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)*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (*especially*). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM *" Grace "*

**** OFFERTORY HYMN** No. 689

" Praise and Thanksgiving " ***v. 1***

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN** No. 632

" O God, Our Help in Ages Past "

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God. We Will!!

POSTLUDE *" Short Postlude"* by Stephen Otis

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar November 15, 2026 – November 22, 2026

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Today	-	Adult Forum at 8:30 a.m.
	-	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
	-	Congregational Meeting after worship
	-	Mistletoe Mark'et and coffee hour following
Tuesday	-	Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	-	HandBell Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.
	-	Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.
Next Sunday	-	Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion
	-	Deck the Hall and Pizza

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nick Bennett
Lector:	Joann Kinzy
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Renate Murray
Flower Delivery:	Marta Turney
Safe Keeper:	Sherry Beach
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 have been placed today by Chris Cropp
in memory of Ruth and Albert Bergstrom.

Prayer Requests



Mourning: The people of Krakow, Family and Friends of John Maroney, Family and Friends of John Hetrick, Family and Friends of Ron Wenger

Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola Bennett, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Joyce Chaney, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Abe, Fred Meyer, Tom Bingham, Jeff Gilbert, Dave, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Carolyn Deems, Brother Denny, Nicholas, Joy, Carroll Bachtel, Connie Franklin, Butch Rinker, Brooklyn Schafer, Tim, John, Beck, Dustin, Hannah Sincell, Southern Garrett High marching band, Mike Z., Eric, Charles G., Archer, Dianna, Eric Anderson, Lynn Harden

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, George Tichinel, Nancy, Jessica, Dave & Michelle, Destiny, Sylvia, Mary-Jane, Cayce, Tom Bosley, Jake Blamble, Norma, Buddy Tasker, Mimi Demaree, Craig, Sue Fulmer, Davon DeBerry, Gary DeBerry, Andy, AJ, Artie Moore, Denise Haines, Gloria Lewis

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 15 Adult Forum
Congregational Council Meeting after worship
Mistle Mark'et with Coffee Hour following

Sunday, November 22 Christ the King Sunday with Holy Communion
Deck the Hall with pizza after worship

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational meeting has been scheduled after worship service today to secure approval for the following matters:

- Review and agreement by the Congregation for St. Mark's Lutheran Church 2027 Unified Budget. Council Treasurer Jim Murray will present a summary of this Finance Committee and Congregational Council recommended budget.
- Approval by the Congregation to nominate Sherry Beach, Seamus Welsh, and Marianna Herpel to serve on Church Council for a three (3) term commencing January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029.
- Approval by the Congregation to reappoint Liz Lewis to serve on Church Council for a three (3) term commencing January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029.

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.
- 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.