



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

***6 South Second Street
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.

October 4, 2026
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Autumn from the Seasons” by Haydn/arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

**** 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 pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 835

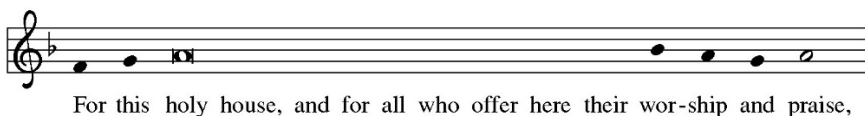
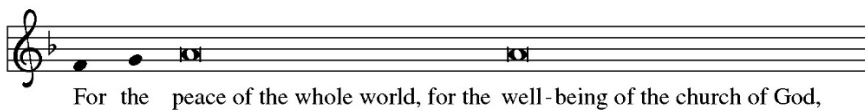
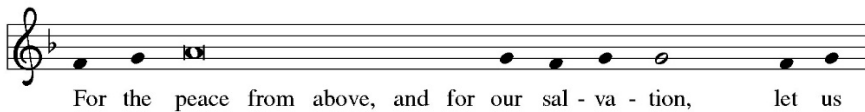
“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

**** GREETING**

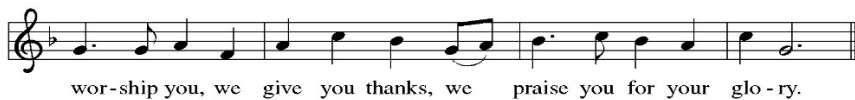
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** KYRIE



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

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

Refrain: Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs. R**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness

under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Leader

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**** GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 803

“ When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ”

**** 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)*

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation, especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

"God So Loved the World"

** OFFERTORY HYMN

No. 188

"Create In Me a Clean Heart"

** OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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. 729

“ The Church of Christ, in Every Age ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Great God of Glory ” by David Paxton

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar October 4, 2026 – October 11, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Blessing of the Animals 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - HandBell Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday** - Autumn Glory Booth 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Liz Gilbert
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Nicole Bosley
Flower Delivery:	Laura Robinson
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 have been placed today by Don & Suzie Sincell
in honor of Hannah's 98th birthday on October 6.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittering, Dorothee Bittering, 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, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt, Sonny Vincent, Kate Schenk, Louie Kitzmiller II, Griffith, Dave, Judy, C.J., Nicholas, Jack, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Patti Shanes, Nancy Keating, Tobi, Vicki, MaryAnn, Mimi, Richard, Sylvia, Marshall, John E., Beck, Carolyn Deems, Denny Murray, Chuck LeKowski, Mary Jane Fike, Joey

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli M., Athena, Kella & Baby, Garrett, Amy Bacha, Jimmy Meyers, Gary Thorn, Thomas Swastintruber, Alice Davidson, Baby Fiona, Shirley Lewis, Dustin Flynn, Jake, George Tichinel, Tanner Lewis

We will be cleaning up the prayer list next week. If you need your loved one to remain on the list, please put another card in, or let Ellda know.

Upcoming Events

Today

Blessing of the Animals at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 10

Autumn Glory Booth & Face Painting 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls during worship
Stained Glass Workshop after worship

Saturday, October 25

Reformation Sunday with Reformation Party after worship

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Sunday – please make sure we have the names of loved ones who have died since the last All Saints Sunday.

Want other ways to give to St. Mark's?

We have several options available to fit your needs!

ACH Giving: You can choose how much you would like to give, and we can set up monthly or twice-monthly automatic giving. This is a convenient way to make your regular offering.

Cash or Check: You are always welcome to give by cash or check in the offering plate. If you need offering envelopes, just let us know!

PayPal: We have now added another convenient way to give through PayPal. Simply scan the **QR code below** to get started.

QR Code



We are here to serve you as you serve our community through Christ. If you have any questions about any of the offering options available, please don't hesitate to have a conversation with **Ellda**.

Bible Trivia

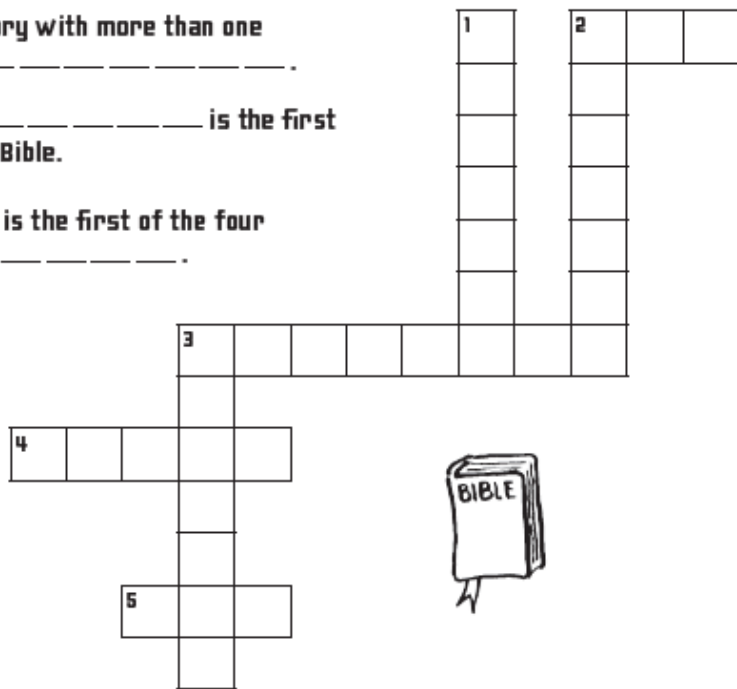
The Bible is full of books and stories. Jesus loved to tell stories and often told parables—short stories with more than one meaning. Today's Gospel is a parable from the book of Matthew. Discover more about your Bible by completing the crossword puzzle below. Ask an adult for help, and have fun!

Across

2. The Bible is all about _____.
3. Gospel means _____.
4. Matthew is the _____ book of the New Testament.
5. The Bible has 2 parts: the _____ Testament and the New Testament.

Down

1. Short story with more than one meaning: _____.
2. _____ is the first book in the Bible.
3. Matthew is the first of the four _____.



More Questions...

How many pages are in your Bible?

What is your favorite Bible story?

How many books are in the Old Testament?

How many books are in the New Testament?

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.



October 4, 2026, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 21:33-46

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



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

Faithful God, you desire faithful followers who produce the fruits of your kingdom. May we be your trustworthy stewards, that the world might know your love through us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



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

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?'" (Matthew 21:42)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The Pharisees were pressing Jesus but not hearing him. Perhaps they will see themselves in Jesus' parable about wicked tenants who killed for their own gain—even the landowner's own son!



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What are your top four values, the cornerstones of your moral compass? (If you're not sure, do an online search for "list of values" to browse your options.) How do your values shape your decisions?
- For the littles: How high can you build a block tower?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May Jesus remain your cornerstone. Amen.



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

Build a house of cards. See how high you can make one. Then remove one of the foundational cards. Consider the metaphor. If Jesus is the cornerstone (or foundational card), what happens to humanity if we reject him?



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

Monday, Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, Psalm 119:49-56; Deut. 5:22-6:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; John 11:45-57

Thursday, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:9-11; James 4:4-10

Saturday, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:12-18; Mark 2:18-22