



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

October 11, 2026
20th Sunday After Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Praise!”

Gilbert M. Martin

**** 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. 553

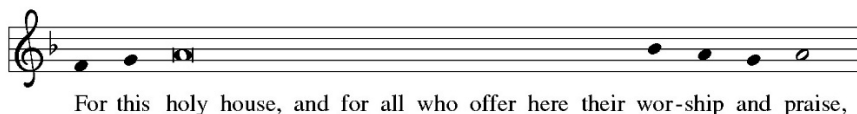
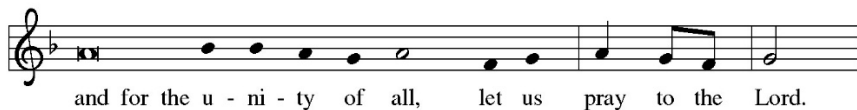
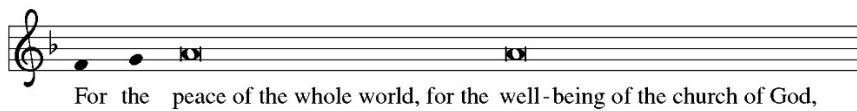
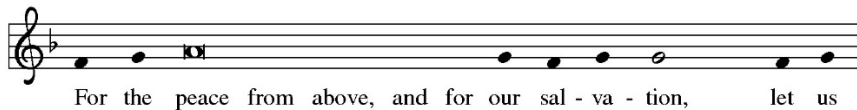
“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

**** GREETING**

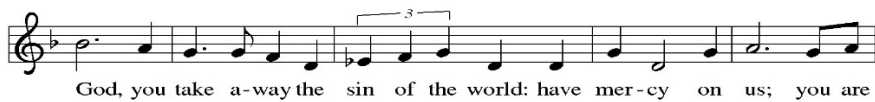
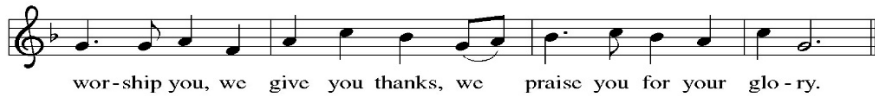
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** KYRIE



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

PSALM: Psalm 23

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

Refrain: You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names

are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

** 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 22:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then

the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 522

“ As We Gather at Your Table ”

**** 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.

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. 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

“ Everlasting Arms ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 184

“ Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ”

**** 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.**

**** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

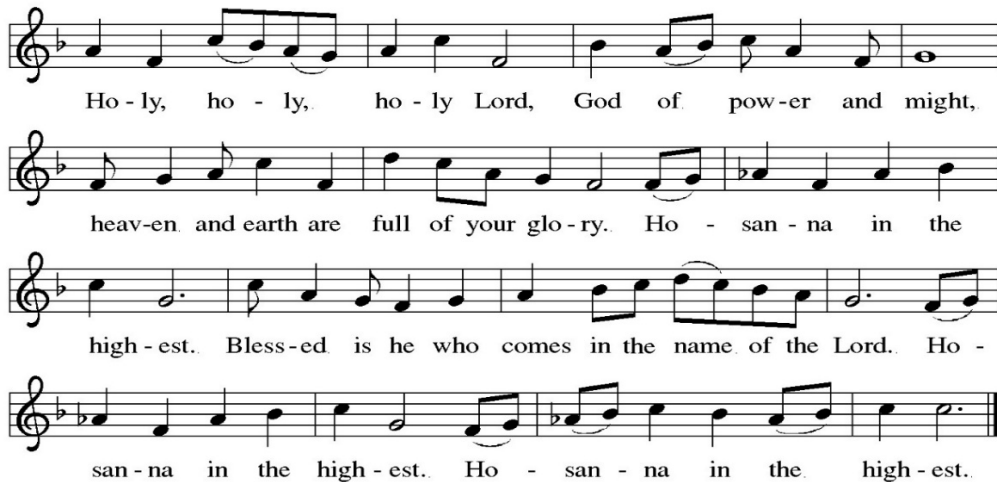
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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**



**** 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**

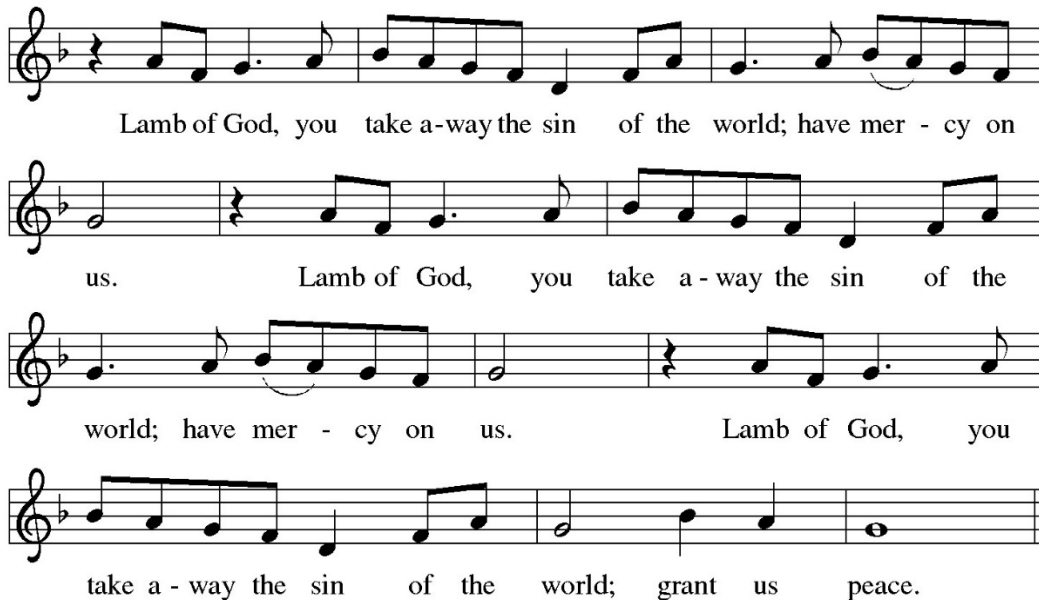
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

No. 608

"Abide with Me"

No. 629

**** 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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**** BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

today and always.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 873

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“Little Prelude in G Minor”

J.S. Bach

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 11, 2026 – October 18, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - HandBell Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday** - Congregation Council at 5:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
- Stained Glass Workshop after worship

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nick Bennett
Lector:	Lowell Leitzel
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Ellda Bennett
Communion Clean-up:	Phyllis Rinker
Flower Delivery:	Marta Turney
Safe Keeper:	Joyce Anderson
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.



The Altar Flowers are given by Jeff & Elizabeth Ree Gilbert
in celebration of the birthdays of Jeff Gilbert and grandson Lloyd H. Schlattman.

Prayer Requests



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

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, George Tichinel, Nancy, Jessica, Dave & Michelle, Destiny, Sylvia, Mary-Jane, Cayce, Tom Bosley, Jake Blamble,

Upcoming Events

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.**

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).

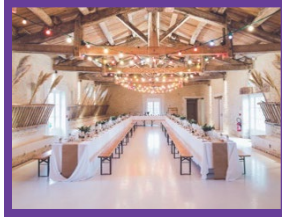
Electronics

- 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.



October 11, 2026, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 22:1-14

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



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

God of hosts, you constantly expand the boundaries of your kingdom. Make us joyful participants in your plan to redeem the world, that all people would be one in you. For the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.



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

"Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."
(Matthew 22:13-14)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus seems bent on stirring up his listeners with each subversive parable. When God invites you to a banquet, there is only one response, and only one dress code: celebration!



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Who are the insiders and who are the outsiders in your community? What happens when the lines get blurred? Who benefits when insiders and outsiders begin to work together? Who is hurt?
- How is Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet good news for you? How is it bad news? Which do you prefer to see: the good or the bad?
- For the littles: Describe your best going-to-a-banquet (party) outfit. You are invited to God's forever celebration!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God clothe you well for God's eternal banquet. Amen.



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

Invite someone to coffee that you normally would not invite (a co-worker, a neighbor, a parishioner). Come with no expectations. Enjoy the company of someone new.



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

Monday, Psalm 97; Exodus 32:15-35; Jude 17-25

Tuesday, Psalm 97; Exodus 33:1-6; Philippians 3:13-4:1

Wednesday, Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17:7-20; John 6:25-35

Thursday, Psalm 99; Exodus 33:7-11; 3 John 9-12

Friday, Psalm 99; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, Psalm 99; Exodus 39:32-43; Matthew 14:1-12