



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 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Exultation ”

St. Mark’s Handbell Choir

**** 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**

“ The Church’s One Foundation ”

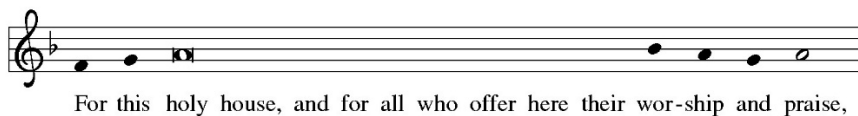
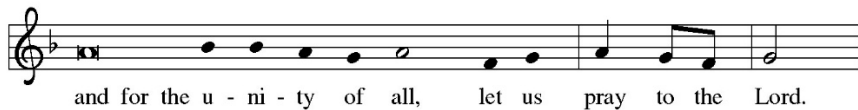
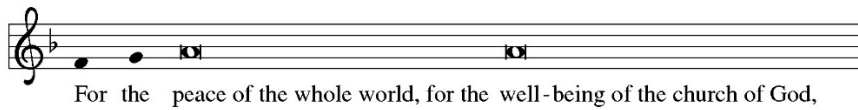
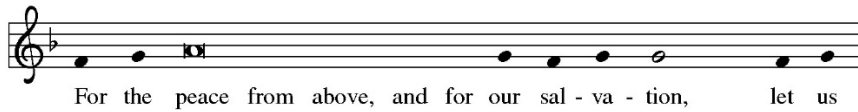
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**** GREETING**

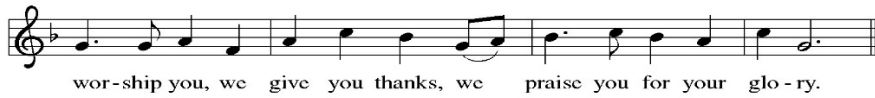
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**** KYRIE**



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: Psalm 46

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

Refrain: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away. R**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

** 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: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

** HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 729

“ The Church of Christ, in Every Age ”

** 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.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. 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

“Glad Adoration”

** OFFERTORY HYMN

No. 885

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

** 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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. 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**

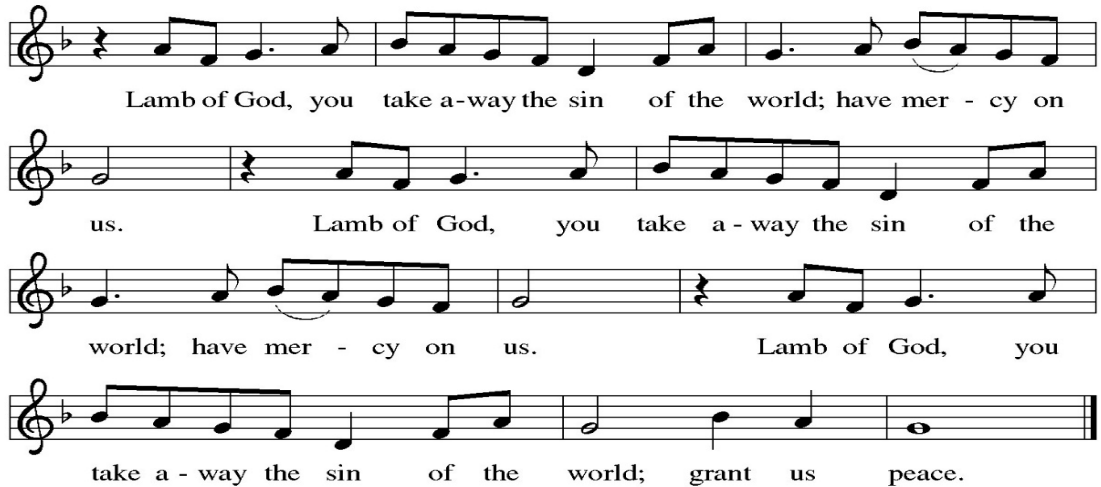
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

"One Bread, One Body"

No. 496

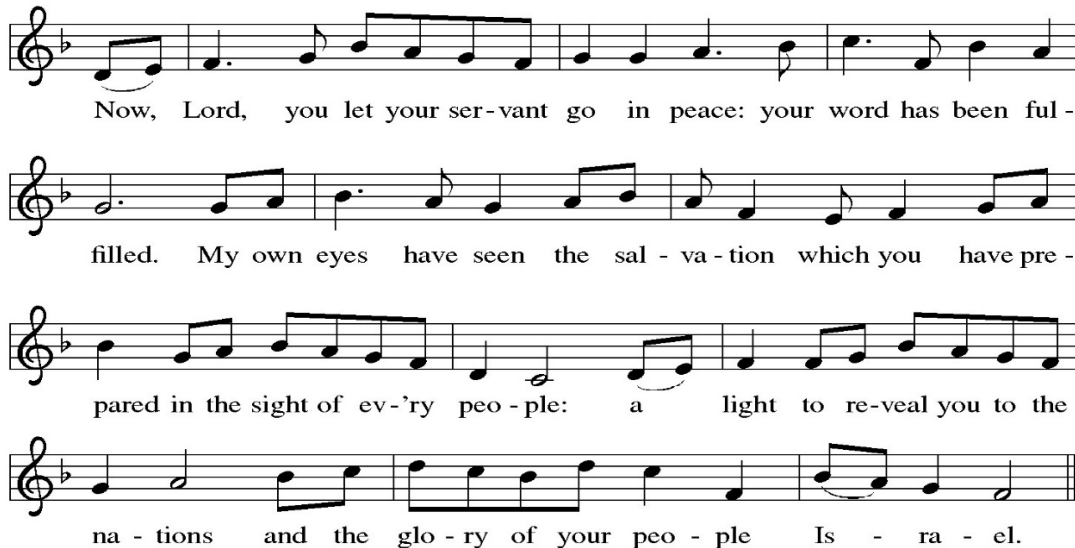
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

No. 517

** 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 fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared 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**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 504

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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 25, 2026 – November 1, 2026

Today

Reformation Sunday

- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion
- Reformation Party after worship

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

All Saints Sunday

- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Riley Feathers
Lector:	Betsy Dempsey
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Stephanie Berger
Communion Clean-up:	Dave & Jennifer Lohman
Flower Delivery:	Phyllis Rinker & Dee Moyer
Safe Keeper:	Jim Murray
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 Donna & Michael Swift
in celebration of their Anniversary.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola Bennett, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittering, Dorothee Bittering, 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

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

Upcoming Events

Today

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.

Sunday, November 15

Congregational Meeting with Coffee Hour following

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 25, 2026, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:34-46

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



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

Just God, your law is simple yet difficult: to love you and others. Give us grace to live your will through our lives and be walking examples of your compassion on earth, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.



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

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-39)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The Pharisees try one last time to trap Jesus in a question. But the tables are turned for the last time. What law lives above all others? Love God and love one another.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- **What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**
- **Who is your neighbor? Who do you consider not your neighbor? How could you work toward loving the people that you disagree with or that scare you?**
- **For the littles: Which is easier: to hate or to love? Which feels better?**



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God send a neighbor to love you. Amen.



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

If you go trick-or-treating this week, share your candy with others. If you receive trick-or-treaters, be a generous giver. If you do neither, pray for the safety of the kids who will be out on Halloween night. Post a sign that you are a safe home for lost or endangered kids.



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

Monday, Psalm 119:41-48; Numbers 33:38-39; James 2:8-13

Tuesday, Psalm 119:41-48; Exodus 34:29-35; James 2:14-26

Wednesday, Psalm 119:41-48; Deut. 26:16-27:7; Matthew 19:16-22

Thursday, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 1:1-11; Romans 2:17-29

Friday, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3

Saturday, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:15-24; Matthew 23:13-28