



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.

September 13, 2026
Creation in Christ
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” arr. Fred Bock

**** LITANY**

Glory to you, O God:

you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark, we bless you, O God:

We bless you, O God.

For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God:

We exalt you, O God.

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God:

We magnify you, O God.

For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God:

We extol you, O God.

For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:

We glorify you, O God.

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God:

We adore you, O God.

For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God:

We worship you, O God.

Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Morning Has Broken"



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird, Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

**** 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



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. ²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very

good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. ^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

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

Refrain: God's splendor is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens. R**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit

the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**** GOSPEL: John 1:1-5**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Sherri Schafer

** HYMN OF THE DAY

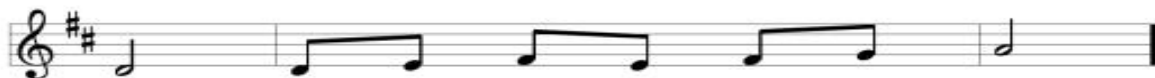
“For the Beauty of the Earth ”



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
2 For the won - der of each hour of the
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on



beau - ty of the skies, for the love which from our
day and of the night, hill and the vale and tree and
heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic har - mo -
sis - ter, par - ent, child, friends on earth and friends a -
earth and joy in heav'n; for thy - self, best gift di -



birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
flow'r, sun and moon stars of light:
ny link - ing sense and to sound and sight:
bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

** 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)*

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words “Your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life:

Your mercy is great.

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator:

Your mercy is great.

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold:

Your mercy is great.

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian:

Your mercy is great.

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from hardship and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God, our healer:

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Joy Medley ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: '1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God. fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a whole note in the key of G major.

**** 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. Receive these gifts we offer, and use them to share your love, serve our neighbors, and bear witness to your grace. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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**

Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise,
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for God's creation!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“Blessed Assurance” arr. Carol Turnquist

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar September 13, 2026 – September 20, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - HandBell Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 8:0 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion
Prayer Shawl Meeting after Worship

Serving Today

Lector:	Karen Myers
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Flower Delivery:	Phyllis Rinker & Dee Moyer
Safe Keeper:	Phyllis Rinker
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.



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers have been placed today by Jeff & Janet Gregory
in honor of our grandchildren.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, 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, Katie LeDuc, Diane LeDuc, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt, Sonny Vincent, Kate Schenk, Louie Kitzmiller II, Griffith, C.J., Nicholas, Jack, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Patti Shanes, Nancy Keating, Tobi, Bruce Meck

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, Dave, Judy, Kate & Allen, Belva

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 20

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Saturday, September 26

Apple Canning Workshop 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A Letter from Council President

I would like to update everyone on the recent changes to the Hinebaugh Lane (back) parking lot.

As some of you may know, Council has given permission to Mountain Postal to use three (3) parking spaces located at the corner of the Hinebaugh Lane parking lot. These spaces can only be used during normal 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM business hours Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM to

Noon on Saturday. Mountain Postal will not be paying to use these spots but is offering St.

Mark's several services (printing/sign making) as a return gesture. The area we are talking about has had a long-used walk through that was, quite frankly, a bit dangerous. Rotted wood and deep

divots in the steps. There was no handicapped access. This is also an area of the parking lot

seldom used by us. A friend of the owner of Mountain Postal noted the issue and has made a

restricted donation for parking lot improvement to St. Mark's to update that area. A good thing for Mountain Postal and St. Mark's. The work is essentially completed, except for gravel being spread on the entire parking lot next week by the Town of Oakland. I do apologize for the late notice to our congregation, but everything happened quite quickly, and the project was underway and completed in a very timely manner. We are still working out a couple of issues, but please

feel free to contact me, Monty Pagenhardt, or Pastor Carrie with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson

301 616 1226

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.



September 13, 2026, 16th Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 18:21-35

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 One, your mercy is beyond our understanding. Teach us how to be gracious as you yourself show grace to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The disciples wondered just how far Jesus could take his message of forgiveness. Farther than they imagined, apparently.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- In our litigating society, how does culture view justice? How does it view forgiveness? What might happen if people practiced forgiveness over blame and the need for restitution?
- Who stands in need of your forgiveness? What would it take to make you ready to forgive?
- For the littles: Have you ever told someone, “I forgive you”? What did it feel like? Jesus is happy when we forgive.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you strength to forgive. Amen.



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

Follow a court case that is spotlighted in the media. Identify places where Jesus’ words for forgiveness might break in. How would extravagant forgiveness alter the outcome of the trial?



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

Monday, Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2

Wednesday, Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Cor. 13:1-4

Friday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Saturday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30