



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 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" by Sebastian Temple

**** THANKSGIVING OF BAPTISM**

✙ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 688

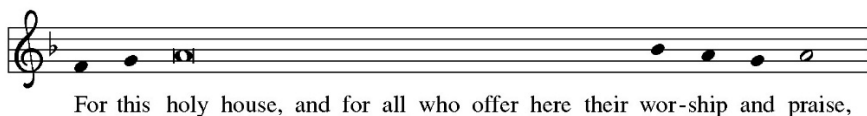
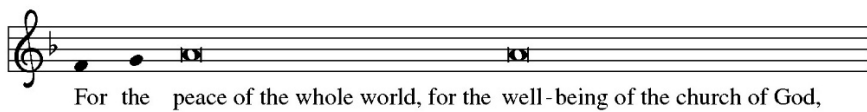
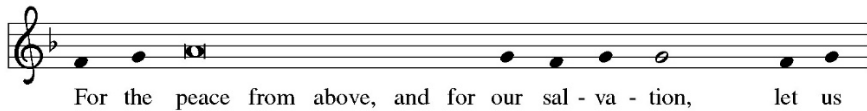
"Lord of Light"

**** GREETING**

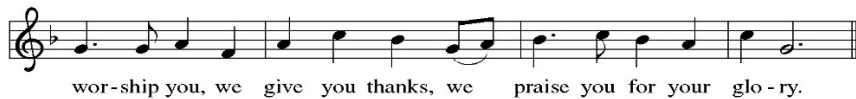
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**** KYRIE**



** CANTICLE OF PRAISE



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

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

Refrain: The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power. R**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

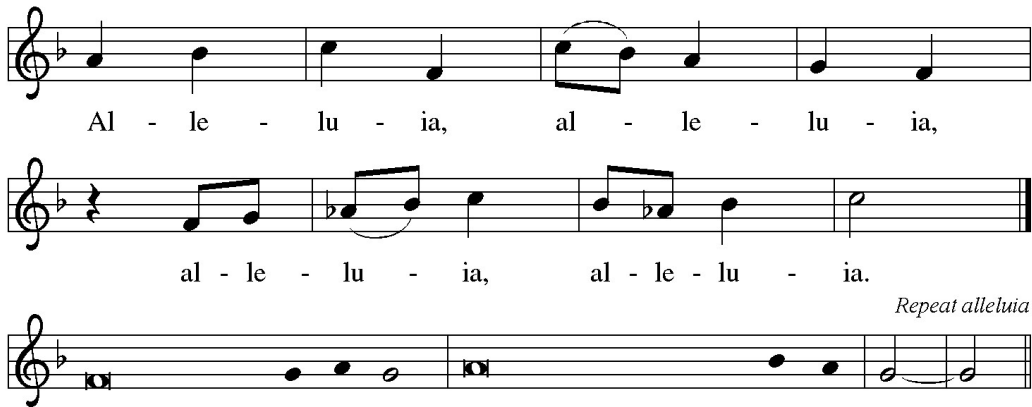
⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

** GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but

each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 659

“ Will You Let Me Be Your Servant ”

**** 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)*

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Let the Beauty "

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 692

"We Are an Offering "

**** 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. 685

“ Take My Life, That I May Be ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Thine is the Glory ” by George Frederick Handel; arr. by Lloyd Larson

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 20, 2026 – September 27, 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 8:00 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Judy Bertsch
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recorder:	Renate Murray
Flower Delivery:	Liz Lewis & Peggy Jamison
Safe Keeper:	Liz Lewis
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 their mother's and grandmother's birthdays.

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, Dave, Judy, C.J., Nicholas, Jack, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Patti Shanes, Nancy Keating, Tobì

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 20	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting
Saturday, September 26	Apple Canning Workshop 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 27	Healing Service after Worship
Sunday, October 4	Blessing of the Animals at 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 10	Autumn Glory Booth & Face Painting 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ST. MARK'S UNIFIED BUDGET REPORT, as of August 31

	2026	2026	2025
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
YTD Giving	\$149,221	\$151,994	\$141,580
YTD Expenses	<u>\$151,945</u>	<u>\$152,287</u>	<u>\$139,389</u>
Surplus/(Deficiency)	<u>(\$2,724)</u>	<u>(\$293)</u>	<u>\$2,194</u>

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.



September 20, 2026, 17th Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 20:1-16

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 God, you are merciful, just, and gracious. Make us grateful recipients of your generosity and joyful dispensers of the same lavish benefits to those who depend upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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

"Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:14-16)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

We hear a simple tale about a just employer paying honest wages to his workers. How could such a thing cause such outrage? One might ask the same of God's kingdom.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Where are wages just and where are they unjust within your community? What would happen if Jesus' idea of abundant generosity was played out in your community?
- What difference does it make to your life that you have been given abundant, unearned, generous love from God?
- For the littles: What does it feel like to get more than you were expecting? God is a generous giver—God gives us much more than we expect!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God surprise you with more. Amen.



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

Be an extravagant tipper this week. Notice how practicing abundant generosity changes you.



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

Monday, Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 16:31-35; Romans 16:1-16

Tuesday, Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:1-9; Romans 16:17-20

Wednesday, Psalm 119:97-104; Num. 11:18-23, 31-32; Matt. 18:1-5

Thursday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Isaiah 48:17-21; James 4:11-16

Friday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 20:1-13; Acts 13:32-41

Saturday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 27:12-14; Mark 11:27-33