



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*6 South Second Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550*

301-334-2668

stmarksoakland@verizon.net

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.

February 16, 2025
6th Sunday After Epiphany
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Jupiter”

St. Mark’s Handbell Quartet

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

****Stand**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 754

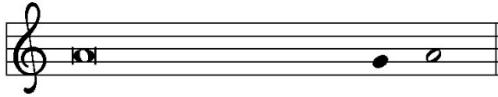
“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

**** 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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



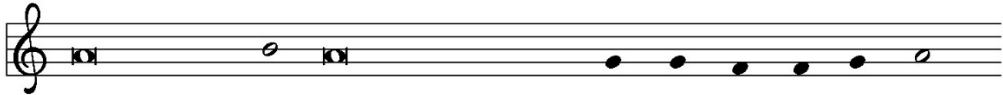
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

** CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

PSALM: Psalm 1

We will start with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. R**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**** 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.

**** GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 806

“ O God, My Faithful God ”

**** 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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

“ A Willing Heart ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 692

“ We Are an Offering ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now 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 Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 434

“ Jesus Shall Reign ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God. WE WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Praises! ” by Dennis Eliot



Prayer Requests

Illness: Jeremy Lewis, Anita Scheffel, Cheri Scheffel, John Burk, Emelee DeWitt, Philip, Paul Thomas, Jim Bosley, Danny Bosley, Mikel Lewis, Gary Wotherspoon, Debbie, Michelle Michaels, Joe Cook, Scott Rohrbaugh, Jason McClung, Paul Lewis, Bill Roszell, Tom Bosley, Ann Friend, Diane

Special Needs: Gary, Chase

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 17

Church Office Closed

Sunday, February 23

Reisinger Food Presentation

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, May 8

Sight and Sound Bus Trip



Special Offering – Supporting Firefighters in Need

This month, our special offering will support the **California Fire Foundation – Firefighters Benevolent Fund**. This organization provides financial assistance to firefighters and their families facing hardship due to injury, illness, or loss of life in the line of duty. Your generosity will help care for those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Sight & Sound St. Mark's Bus Trip

Join us for an unforgettable bus trip on May 8th, 2025, to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre for the spectacular production of Noah! Witness the powerful story of Noah's faith and trust as he embarks on one of the world's most famous voyages. This landmark production, featuring live animals and captivating sets that fill the stage and aisles, returns for one season only to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Sight & Sound Theatre. In addition to the show, we'll enjoy a scenic bus ride through the beautiful countryside and lunch at Hershey Farm Restaurant. The cost of tickets is \$232 per person (includes transportation, premier 1st-floor seating, and lunch). You'll need to secure your spot by signing up soon. Payment for the trip is due by March 1st. Ticket forms are located in the narthex. Please HOLD your spot by returning the purple form in the narthex or by talking to Joyce Anderson, Ellda, or Pastor Carrie for more information.

What Do Cows, Crickets, and Quinoa Have in Common?

We have been exploring how our use of food can impact the environment. First, we tackled food waste. As much as half of the food produced globally is wasted, and this contributes 8-10% of greenhouse gas emissions. People have told us they are thinking more about what to buy, how to plan meals, and what to do with leftovers!

Next, we are turning our attention to a primary concern of people around the world, eating enough protein. Many sources of protein exist, but complex factors ranging from cost to availability influence our choices. In this session, we'll take a look at our options and how the decisions we make affect the environment.

Join us February 23 downstairs after the service for a "lunch and learn" session on protein. Everyone's welcome. No previous attendance required. There *IS* such a thing as a free lunch. We'll provide the food this time.

Mary and Marty Reisinger

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar February 16, 2025 – February 23, 2025

- Today** - Adult Forum at 8:30 a.m.
- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Worship & Music Team Meeting
- Monday** - **Office Closed**
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** - Bell Quartet at 5:30 p.m.
- Bell Choir at 6:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Tim DeWitt
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Recording:	Nicole Bosley
Safekeeper:	Liz Lewis
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt. Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at carriehoff@outlook.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are placed Dawn Scheffel in the Glory of God.